

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY HISTORY

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Mr. Oliver Greenwood organized and worked with the committee until his call to the army; Mrs. Anna Leigh Gwaltney Laine then became chairman. Serving on the committee in addition were: Miss Hazel Holland, Mrs. Louise L. Smith, Mrs. Mary Reveley, Mrs. Dorothy Robbins, Mrs. Marion B. Holland, Mrs. Buena Maie Johnson, Miss Jesse Fowler, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Daugherty, and Superintendent L. T. Hall.

PREFACE

Isle of Wight County, situated as it is, close to the first ~~permanent~~ English settlement in the New World, has a long and interesting history. During the session of 1954-1955, a committee composed mostly of fourth grade teachers was appointed to write a history of the County to be used on the fourth grade level. This committee is responsible for the pages that follow.

In that Virginia history is now required as a subject in the 4th, 7th, 11th and 12th grades of our public school system, the committee had in mind that the story of Isle of Wight County might parallel the State history as it is being taught. Therefore, it has turned in the material as compiled and we are furnishing this in mimeograph form. We realize that many errors have crept into our copy. It is our hope that teachers using this copy will make suggestions as to correction; write out questions at the end of chapters; suggest exercises; topics for discussion, etc., and that a new committee with members from other grades mentioned can work on a revision with the hope that some day we can have a printed edition with maps, drawings, and pictures to make the story of Isle of Wight more attractive.

We hope that pupils in our schools knowing more about the history of our County will appreciate and love it more.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY HISTORY

1. Discovery
Early Settlement
Indians of Isle of Wight County
2. Military History
3. Men of Deeds
4. County Government
5. Transportation and Communication
6. Schools
7. Churches
8. Origin of the Towns
9. Agriculture
10. (1) Industries of Smithfield
10. (2) Camp Manufacturing Company

THE BEGINNING

CHAPTER ONE

THE DISCOVERY OF ISLE OF WIGHT

Smith's Arrival

A little over three hundred years ago in May, 1607 three small ships came sailing up the James River. On those ships were a hundred or more Englishmen. They stopped at a place which they later named Jamestown in honor of King James of England. This was the first English settlement in America that did not completely fail. Among the Englishmen who landed here was a young man named John Smith. He was only twenty-eight years old, but one could see he was a brave soldier and looking for adventure.

In the spring of 1608, about one year after the Englishmen had landed at Jamestown, John Smith led the way in the discovery of Isle of Wight County. It became necessary for John Smith to cross the James River to look for food for the starving colonists living at Jamestown. He was able to buy fourteen bushels of corn from a tribe of Indians called Warrosqueakes. Captain John Smith became the first white man to put foot on the soil which was later to be known as Isle of Wight County. In December 1608, Captain Smith came back to the Warro-squyoake plantation and spent the night with the

Indians. He was on his way to visit Chief Powhatan who lived on the York River. Later in the spring of 1611, the sixty starving men who had lived through the winter at Jamestown wanted to leave the colony. They also spent their first night away from home with the same tribe of Indians.

Smith Meets The Indians

The Warrosquyoakes lived in a village near what is known as Rushmere in Isle of Wight County. Their hunting grounds were along the James River for five miles and inland for about twenty miles. They had a fighting strength of about forty or fifty warriors. It is interesting to read from Captain Smith's book about the life and adventure in Isle of Wight, then called Warrosquoeake. In his book he tells us that the king of this tribe of Indians at one time gave him guides to search for signs of Sir Walter Raleigh's "Lost Colony" at Roanoke Island. He told Smith that Chief Powhatan was very dangerous and he should not try to make friends with him. However, only a few years later, this same Indian, tried, and almost succeeded in killing all of the white people living on the south side of the James River.

Captain Smith also tells us in his book, that the first white man who lived in Isle of Wight was Samuel

Collier. Collier was a page of Captain Smith's, and he lived for awhile with the Warrosqueakes in order to learn their language. Collier became a Governor of one of the towns. He was killed during the massacre of 1622 by a guard who thought he was an Indian.

CHAPTER TWO

EARLY SETTLEMENTS OF THE PIONEERS

THE FIRST

The year 1619 was a red letter year in the Virginia colony. The colony was given a new and better charter. The first shipload of maids came over to marry and make happy homes for the men in the colony. The first shipload of Negro slaves were sold at Jamestown to work in the tobacco fields. The first law making body ever to meet in America met at Jamestown that year. In this same year the first English settlement in Isle of Wight County was made by Captain Christopher Lawne and Sir Richard Worsley.

On April 27, 1619, a ship commanded by Captain Evans brought one hundred settlers to Jamestown. They settled near the mouth of a creek on the south side of the James River. This place is still known as Lawne's Creek. (This colony was wiped out by malaria.) In 1642, this creek made the dividing line between Isle of Wight County and Surry County. In 1620, Captain Lawne's Plantation became known as Isle of Wight Plantation. In 1636 it was called Isle of Wight County. This name was given because many of the pioneers had lived on the famous "Isle of Wight Island", off the coast of England in the English Channel. The word "Wight" means "channel" or "passage". The name means "Island of the Channel". It is believed that the name

was changed because the name "Warrosqueake", by which it had been called, was too hard for the white settlers to spell or pronounce since it was an Indian word. The cliffs along the James River reminded the settlers of their home county in England. And lastly, some of the settlers, being very religious, did not want their county to have a heathen name. They considered the Indian as heathen or pagan.

Bennett's Plantation

In November, 1621, Edward Bennett, a rich merchant of London, was granted a patent for a plantation, upon the condition of settling 200 imigrants. Their place of settlement was known as "Edward Bennett's Plantation" and was located at a place on the James River known as the "Rocks". Today this place is known as Morgarts Beach.

Basso's Choice

Then in 1621 Captain Nathaniel Basso and others tried another plantation in the same neighborhood. Captain Basso came over in person and his plantation was known as "Basso's Choice". It was located on Warrosqueake, now Pagan River.

So it seems that Sir Christopher Lawne, Edward Bennett, and Captain Basso made the three earliest settlements in Isle of Wight County. Many of the early settlers were of Puritan or Cavalier origin. They came over from the area surrounding Bristol, England. Old records show that Bristol

ships made many trading voyages to Isle of Wight, bringing with them on every trip large number of immigrants. Many of these people came because of their desire for trade and wealth, love of patriotism, missionary spirit and the love of adventure.

However, dangers and death often faced these early settlers in Isle of Wight. Often the settlements seemed doomed to failure from disease, lack of food, Indians, and quarrels among themselves. However, the pioneers managed to stay on because the ocean was wide, ships were few, and the winds were uncertain.

CHAPTER THREE

THE INDIANS OF ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

When John Smith and his men came to Isle of Wight in 1608, they found a land of forests. In these forests were two tribes of Indians who were friendly to the white men. One tribe, the Nottoways, lived in the western part of the County. This part is now known as Southampton. The other tribe, the Warrosqueakes, lived near the Powhatan River. Their small village was near the place called Rushmore.

These Indians were tall, straight and well built. They were copper-colored, had high cheek bones, black eyes and coarse black hair. The women wore their hair long and allowed it to hang over their shoulders. The men cut their hair short on the right side, so it would not flap around and get tangled in their bow strings when they drew their bows to shoot. On the left the hair was often so long that it hung down on their shoulders. The chief had his hair on the top of his head shaped up like a coxcomb.

Their clothing was made from the skins of the deer, raccoon, beaver or the otter. For wear in summer the skins had the hair removed. For winter wear, the skins were cured with the hair and fur on them.

The Indian homes were called wigwams. They were made by sticking small, young trees about nine or ten feet high, in the ground in a circle. Then the tops were bent together and tied with strong grapevine, long slender roots,

soft strips of bark or thin splits of white oak. A hole was left in the top of the wigwam so that smoke from the fires could escape. The family fire was made in the middle of the wigwam, right under the smoke hole.

The wigwams were furnished very simply. The Indians used grass mats for chairs. They built platforms for beds and covered them with the skins of animals.

The fires were made by striking sparks from flint, and by twirling the end of a hard stick against a soft, dry piece. They were never allowed to go out because it was considered bad luck. So, the women tended the fires very carefully.

The Indians did some farming. Since they lived in the forest, and had no tools to cut down trees to clear the land for their farms they cut a ring around the trees with stone hatchets. This slowed the flow of sap and caused the trees to die. Even today some people clear their land in this way.

They raised corn, beans and tobacco. The women did most of the work. They also planted trees and shrubs near their wigwams. In the cornfields they built a platform with a high seat. On this sat a watchman (perhaps a watch woman or a watch girl) to chase away the birds or animals that came to eat the corn. They did this by beating on drums or boards.

The Indians were great hunters. Their most useful

weapon for hunting was the bow and arrow. They made their bows out of strong, tough wood that had a quick spring. The shafts of their arrows were reed stems and slender twigs. The thicker end of the arrow was notched and was fitted with a turkey feather. The feather guided the arrow and made it fly straight. The heads of the arrow shafts were pointed with pieces of flint which were carefully chipped out so as to be sharp on the end and on the edges with a short shank to fasten in the end of the wooden arrow shaft. Many of these arrow heads are still found in parts of the county. Some are much larger than others, though none are over three or four inches long. Maybe the smaller ones were used on the little arrows of the Indian boys. They were taught to shoot with bow and arrows when they were very young.

Since the Warrosquoakes lived near the James River they needed some way to travel on the river. They built canoes of trees in a very interesting way. After selecting a large tree they made a fire at the root and burned it down. Next, they burned off a long log by making a fire at each end. With their tomahawks they cut off the bark. After a big log was burned off at both ends and the bark was peeled off, the Indians would roll it up on crossbars about two feet off the ground. Then they would make a row of small fires under it. In this way, a trough or hollow

was burned in it. Once in a while they would roll the log over and cut out the burnt edges with their hatchets. This would make the hollow deeper. At last, they had a canoe hollowed out deep enough to float and carry a heavy load.

These Indians believed that when death came they went beyond the mountains toward the setting sun to a happy hunting ground. They thought it unnecessary to pray to a good god because he would not hurt them anyway. With the evil spirit it was different. He might do them harm and so they should try to please him. One evil god was called "Kiwassa" or "Okoo" and they worshipped him.

The Indians counted time by "Cohonks" and "Moons". Cohonk comes from the shrill cry of the wild goose which is heard when winter approaches. A month is a change of the moon, hence the word "Moon" for time.

They had a number of feasts such as, one for the coming of the wild fowl, one for the return of the hunting season, and one for the ripening of certain fruits. Their greatest festival took place at the time when they gathered corn. This lasted several days. At this time the warriors boasted that, as their corn had been gathered, which furnished food enough for the women and children, they were free to hunt, seek new adventure or go to war. So they danced, rejoiced, and sang.

Warrosqueake Indians

Powhatan was an Indian Emperor who lived on the York River. One day he invited Captain John Smith to visit him. He asked him to bring some men who could build a house. Smith and his men started on the trip to see Powhatan. On his way to visit Powhatan he spent the night with the Warrosqueake Indians in their village called "Old Town". This was in the same place which was later known as Isle of Wight County. These Indians were friendly to John Smith. They gave him food and let them spend the night by their fire. The Warrosqueake Indians told Smith that Powhatan planned to kill him when he went to visit his tribe.

Even though the Warrosqueake told Smith about Powhatan's plan, Smith and his men went on to see the old Indian Emperor. When they got to Powhatan's village, he told Smith that he and his men were not invited. Smith saw some of the Indian warriors who had come to invite them. He told Powhatan that these were the Indians who came to Jamestown to ask them to come for a visit.

That night Pocahontas came and told Smith that her father planned to kill them. Pocahontas was Powhatan's daughter. The white men tried to give her gifts but she would not take them. She was afraid that her father would kill her if he saw her wearing them. The Indians did not attack the white men. The next morning the Englishmen went back to Jamestown. They loaded their boats with corn which they had gotten from the Indians.

They would use this corn for food for their people at Jamestown.

Nottaway Indians

The Nottaway Indians were a very powerful tribe. They had about a hundred bow-men. They were also a very peaceful tribe. They traded the things they got from hunting and fishing with the white people for guns, blankets, and other useful things. These Indians and the white man seemed to be kind to each other until the massacre of 1622. Then the Indians tried to kill all the white people.

The Nottaway Indians are described by Colonel William Byrd, who was a leading man in Virginia. He was born in 1674 at Westover, which is a pretty home on the James River. He tells about his visit to these Indians in his writings.

The Indians entertained Colonel Byrd and his friends with several war dances. They used Indian drums made of a large gourd with a skin tight over one end of it. The dancers sang to the music. They kept time with their feet, heads and arms. The Indian women were dressed in pretty clothes.

The Indian women did the work. The men went hunting and fishing. They had rather suffer from dirt and cold than work.

Massacre of 1622

Powhatan died in 1618 and his brother became head of the Indian tribes in eastern Virginia. He ruled over thirty tribes with eight thousand men. When Powhatan's brother became the head he planned to kill every Englishman in Virginia. He hated all white people. He made plans for four years. He even borrowed

English boats to carry the Indians across the river to carry out his plans. The attack was made in 1622 after a white man killed an Indian who had just killed a white person.

On March 22, 1622 there were 1,240 people living in the state of Virginia. Just a few hours after the Indians made their attack 347 people were killed. There were 53 white people killed in Isle of Wight.

The Indians went to both Basse's Choice and Bonnett's Plantation. More than fifty persons were killed at Bonnett's Plantation. Only twenty-nine persons were left at Warrosquako while there were twenty left at Bass's Choice. During the next year twenty-six others died from disease.

The Puritans suffered because of the massacre and disease. However the settlement grew and prospered. Both Warrosquako and Basse's Choice were represented at the assembly of 1623-1624.

There are many stories told about the escapes made by the white men during the massacre of 1622.

Many of the settlers saved the life of their family by firing a gun to frighten the Indians away. A family by the name of Baldwin frightened the Indians from their home by doing this. However, Mrs. Baldwin was wounded before the Indians were driven away.

Captain Ralph Hamor was a very important man. The Indians came to his home. They told him that their King was hunting in his neighborhood and wanted Captain Hamor to join him. When the

Indians came to Captain Hamor's home to bring the message he was busy writing a letter. He waited until he had finished his letter before he went outside. When he went out he found that the Indians had set fire to his neighbor's tobacco barn. The white people were coming to help put out the fire when the Indians attacked them and began killing the people. Captain Hamor was able to defend himself and fight his way back to his house. The Indians gave up the fight and left.

Captain Nathaniel Basso's family were killed. He was saved only because he was in England at the time the Indians attacked.

After the white man's homes and property were destroyed they went to Jamestown. Many of them went back to England. All white people left Warresquake.

A man named Sir George Yeardley led the white man against the Warresqueakes in July of that same year. They burned the Indian homes and took their corn. The Indians left their homes and went to live in the woods. The white man came back from Jamestown and England to live at their settlements in Isle of Wight.

MILITARY HISTORY OF THE COUNTY

BACON'S REBELLION IN ISLE OF WIGHT

REVOLUTIONARY DAYS

COMMITTEE OF SAFETY

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS OF THE COUNTY

REVOLUTIONARY OPERATIONS

WAR OF 1812

MEXICAN WAR

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

BATTLES FOUGHT ON ISLE OF WIGHT SOIL

THOSE WHO SERVED THE CONFEDERACY FROM ISLE OF WIGHT

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

WORLD WAR I

WORLD WAR II

BACON'S REBELLION

A number of men from Isle of Wight were involved in Bacon's Rebellion. This rebellion had indirectly resulted from the refusal of Governor William Berkeley to let Colonel Nathaniel Bacon march against the Indians, after these had attacked early settlers. We do not have the names on record of the citizens who actually took part in this first fight in America for freedom. We do know that Col. Joseph Bridger had to flee to Accomac with the Governor. After Bacon's death, he returned to the County and was very active in punishing those who had followed Bacon.

John Jennings, Clerk of the Court of Isle of Wight, was one of the main followers of Bacon. He was sentenced to be banished from the Colony of Virginia. He was very old and feeble, broken down in health and fortune, and therefore the time for sending him away was extended by appeal several times. He died before it was ever carried out.

John Marshall, another outstanding follower of Bacon, was made to beg pardon in Court on bended knees for uttering scandalous words against the King's Commissioners. Others were made to beg pardon in Court and sign a paper, saying that all the things they had said against Sir William Berkeley were false, and promised never to be guilty of such a practice again.

REVOLUTIONARY DAYS

COMMITTEE OF SAFETY.

In 1775 when all the English Colonies were forming Committees of Safety to take care of their local problems of war, Isle of Wight County formed her own Committee. John Scarsbrook Wills

was appointed Chairman of the Committee and Francis Young was appointed clerk. It was the duty of this Committee to see that prices for merchandise were not over-charged. A sub-committee was appointed to buy from the merchants of Smithfield all the gunpowder they could spare for the price of two shillings and six pence per pound.

The Committee sent three men to Yorktown to find out if Governor Thomas Nelson could supply this County with twelve hundred pounds of gunpowder. They were told to inform Gov. Nelson that the people of Isle of Wight would come on short notice to help him in case of an enemy attack on Yorktown. Gov. Nelson replied that he could not supply the County with gunpowder, but told the Committee that it could be bought from Baltimore, Md. He thanked them for their offer to help defend Yorktown in case of danger.

George Purdie, a merchant of the Town of Smithfield, was summoned to appear before the Committee for violating rules. He was called upon to defend himself against these charges. He wrote the Committee a letter saying that he would be glad to come before the Committee, but he had been told that he was to be tarred and feathered, guilty or not guilty. He begged the Committee of Safety of Isle of Wight would grant protection to Mr. Purdie provided he was proved innocent, and would be glad of his personal appearance. If not, they requested him to tell the author of the report that he was to be tarred and feathered, guilty or not guilty. Mr. Purdie still begged the Committee to excuse him

from attending in person. He said he had heard the report from some of his wife's friends.

A number of merchants were tried for selling goods at higher prices to some people than to others, and punished for doing so.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

When the port of Boston was under an embargo before the actual fighting started, Isle of Wight County promptly wrote a letter of sympathy. It was sent about the time Governor Dunmore dismissed the House of Burgesses for writing a similar letter.

Isle of Wight County also sent a vessel loaded with corn to Boston.

We shall never know exactly the complete list of soldiers Isle of Wight County sent to the Continental Army. The records were destroyed in the County by the British Colonel Tarleton, and in Richmond by Arnold. We do know the following men were in the army with General Washington:

Col. Josiah Parker
Major Francis Boykin
Capt. James Johnson
Gen. John S. Wills
Jesse Matthews
James Casey
Edward Ward
Robin Turner
Samuel McCoy
John Forest
Henry Hill
Ben (Whalebone) Jones
Moses Atkins

There was not much serious fighting in this County. There were only three actual invasions by the British. However, the large water front kept our people busy watching for invasions.

Col. Tarleton passed through the County twice with a large

body of British Cavalry. They visited Smithfield, and then went on to the Court House, intending to destroy the County records. They failed to do this because Mrs. Francis Young had buried the records. They went to Macclesfield, the home of Col. Josiah Parker, hoping to capture the Colonel himself. They also failed to get their prisoner, but destroyed many valuable papers there. Among the papers they destroyed were some church papers which Col. Parker was keeping in his home. Mrs. Cowper, Col. Parker's daughter, kept some of these papers until the War of 1812. At that time, some soldiers stationed near Macclesfield needed cartridge paper. They got some that was thought to be waste paper from the service. All the papers that had been saved from Tarleton's Raid were then used in the service of the Country.

Everywhere that Tarleton's men went, they destroyed property, carried off horses, cattle and slaves. In one of these raids a body of Isle of Wight militia attacked them at a place called Scott's Old Field, just over the Mansfield County line. They defeated the British and drove them across Milner Creek.

The soldiers of the County saw much service. A letter was written to His Excellency, Benjamin Harrison, telling him how our County had suffered destruction by the enemy, who landed almost daily on our shores.

WAR OF 1812

When the second war with Great Britain came, Isle of Wight was again ready with her money and men, as she had been in Revolutionary Days. When Congress declared war on June 11, 1811, men of Isle of Wight began at once to enroll themselves to defend

their new Country. They raised companies by voluntary enlistment and before the end of the war in 1815, several hundred men of the County had become soldiers of the United States. Ten companies, containing about five hundred enlisted men, made up the Twenty-ninth Regiment of Virginia Volunteers. Major Joseph W. Ballard, of Isle of Wight County was in command. The officers of these companies were:

Captains (William B. Moody	Lieutenants (Davis Dick
(Richard Bidgood	(Robert West
(Joseph Atkinson	(Charles Wrenn
(James Atkinson	(Joseph Godwin
(David Dick	Ensigns (Isaac Moody (John W. Eley
(Simon Gwaltney	(Tristram Bunkley (Josiah Holleman
(Robert Jordan	(George Wilson (Willis Morris
(John Lawrence	(Josiah Wrenn (Exum Eley
(Robert Tynes	(Henry Applegate (George W. Driver
(Charles Wrenn	(Dawson Delk (Joseph Hodsden

A company was organized at Smithfield led by Captain Hamilton Shield. This company entered the service February 8, 1813. They served out their term of enlistment at Norfolk, Archibald Atkinson served as ensign and Peter Jones as lieutenant of this company.

In this war, the enemy never got very far from their ships. Therefore there were few invasions into this County. The British did try to land at The Rocks, on the James River, but Captains Dick and Wrenn, with their companies, fired into their ranks so steadily that they returned to their ships at once.

The British kept their man-of-war Plantagenet in the James River just off The Rocks several months. The Twenty-ninth Division was kept busy watching every movement or change of position the war ship made. No attempt was ever made to land men on our shores after that first time when they were driven off so quickly.

MEXICAN WAR

When the Mexican War came in 1846, the place of fighting was so far away, and there were such large numbers of volunteers, that no companies were organized in this County. James Davis went to Richmond to join Capt. Robert Scott's company. He was with this company at Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Jalappa, and Mexico. Two men from our County were in Mississippi at the time the war broke out. They were Alfred H. Darden and Richard Parr. They both joined a regiment from that State commanded by Colonel Jefferson Davis. They also served with General Taylor at Palo Alto and Monterrey. Benjamin Gale went to Portsmouth, Virginia, where he joined Capt. John P. Young's company. He went to Mexico with this company and fought throughout the war.

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

BATTLES FOUGHT ON ISLE OF WIGHT SOIL

When the time came for the people of Isle of Wight to make up their minds on the question of seceding from the United States an election was held in this County. There were eight hundred sixty-one people in the County who were registered voters. Every registered voter cast his vote, and every vote was for secession. This was most unusual, as the County was practically an anti-slavery County. A large number of the old deeds and wills show that large numbers of slaves were given their freedom before the war.

The first Confederate troops stationed in this County during the war were in General John C. Pemberton's brigade. This brigade

was made up of a battery of Light Artillery from North Carolina and several regiments of infantry from North Carolina and Virginia. The Third Regiment of Virginia Artillery was under the command of Col. Roger A. Prior, who later became General Prior. These troops collected here early in 1861 and stayed until April 1862.

The first Federal troops to invade this County were a New York regiment of cavalry under the command of Colonel Dodge, July, 1862. They reached the Isle of Wight Court House. This was part of the force that had fought at Suffolk, after the evacuation of Norfolk.

Only a few small battles took place in our County. A slight action took place near Ducksville between a part of the Gouthampton Cavalry and Spear's New York Cavalry. Sharp firing kept up for some time, but no loss was seen by either side except the killing and wounding of several horses.

A short time afterwards, Dodge's Cavalry moved eastward from the Court House to Carroll's Bridge. They came very near surprising a group of Confederate troops from Col. Claiborne's command, who were worshipping at a church nearby. When the alarm was given, these troops rushed forth, and drove back the Yankees. Several men were killed and wounded; thirty-two prisoners and twenty-six horses were captured.

There was a battle fought at Carrsville in 1863 which lasted from May 15th to May 18th. This battle took place near the old Hebron Christian Church. In this battle, a Northern man, Anson G. Thurston, lost his life. He had once been a student at

Harvard University. You may see a memorial to him on the walls of the Memorial Chapel of the University today, saying that he died at Franklin, Virginia, May 18 of wounds received at Carrsville, May 17, 1863.

In January 1864, a Federal steamer in the James River was fired upon some distance below Smithfield. The pilot and crew were driven below deck, and the vessel was dragged on the beach. The incoming tide caused it to float again, and the news of the attack was carried to Newport News. At once the "Smith Briggs", a gunboat with about one hundred and fifty men, was sent up the river to Smithfield. The troops landed and started south, expecting to gain the rear of the party which had fired on the steamer a few days before. When near Scott's Factory, they were met by Major Sturdevant, with a small force. Here an artillery duel took place, in which a Confederate soldier, Lieutenant Giggitt, was killed. Since neither side knew the strength of the other, both withdrew. The Confederates went to Ivor, and the Federals to Smithfield. When the Federals got back to Smithfield, they found that their vessel had gone and not returned. A message was sent to Major Sturdevant at once, telling him about the situation. The Federals were attacked the following morning by Major Sturdevant, who, after considerable action, forced them to surrender. While the fight was going on, the "Smith Briggs" returned, not knowing what had taken place. The captain brought the vessel into port, but Sturdevant's gunners soon sent a shot into the vessel's boiler. About one hundred and twenty prisoners were

captured, and a small amount of supplies were taken, before the vessel was set on fire and blown up.

In the summer of 1864, a boat came up the river and landed the Fiftieth Massachusetts Infantry at Burwell's Bay. They started to Smithfield, but were met by a small Confederate force. After much firing at long range, they went back to their vessel without any deaths on either side.

During the war, Federal cavalry went through the County and armed boats came to Smithfield often. Two facts kept them from staying in the County very long. A large body of signal corps men and scouts, with whereabouts uncertain, was always present in the County, and the burning of the two bridges at Smithfield kept them back. There are markers along our highways, telling where small battles and skirmishes took place on our soil.

September 28, 1862	-	Blackwater River
October 3, 1862	-	Near Franklin, on Blackwater River
October 15, 1862	-	Carrsville
October 24, 1862	-	Blackwater River
October 31, 1862	-	Franklin (on Isle of Wight side)
December 2, 1862	-	Near Franklin
December 12, 1862	-	Zuni (112th New York Infantry)
December 22, 1862	-	Isle of Wight Court House
February 13, 1863	-	Smithfield
March 17, 1863	-	Blackwater River
April 23, 1863	-	Chuckatuck (Near Isle of Wight line)
May 15 and 16, 1863	-	Carrsville, Holland and Suffolk
May 18, 1863	-	Carrsville
March 13, 1864	-	Battle of Carrollton Store
April 14, 1864	-	Smithfield and Cherry Grove
May 4 - 12, 1864	-	Kautz's Cavalry passed through Isle of Wight
August 29, 1864	-	Smithfield

THOSE WHO SERVED THE CONFEDERACY FROM ISLE OF WIGHT

The Benjamin F. Chapman Memorial Library has over the mantle a list of the officers and about two hundred privates who fought

for the South. The officers who served the South are as follows

Capt. James E. Chalmers
1st Lt. Joseph D. Woodley
2nd Lt. William D. Folk
2nd Lt. James Cary Jordan
1st Serg. Francis B. Watson
2nd Serg. William G. Rouse
3rd Serg. Cornelius Goodwin
4th Serg. Joseph C. Goodrich
1st Corp. David Boykin Pastour
2nd Corp. John W. Shivers
3rd Corp. G. Washington Womble
4th Corp. Junius Watson Wilson

Company A, 19th Battallion, Virginia Artillery, Crutchfield's
Brigade, Ewell's Corps, Custis Lee's Division, Army of Northern
Virginia. Surrendered at Appomattox, April 9, 1865.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

There was no organized force from this County that took part
in the short war we were forced to fight with Spain. It was over
before many citizens could enlist. At the beginning of the trouble
there was much discussion as to the wisdom of the United States
taking any part in defending Cuba. When the battleship Maine
was blown up in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898, a few of the
men in the County joined various companies. Among those who did
service in this war with Spain were:

A. S. Johnson, a lieutenant in the Fourth U. S. Volunteer Infantry;
George E. Mossison, a member of Company G - Sixth U. S. Cavalry,
which took part in the battle at San Juan, Santiago.
J. E. Tucker)
O. M. Johnson)
Robert Drewry) All of the latter were members of the Fourth Virgi
D. T. Crowley) ia Volunteer Infantry.
John I. Clarks)

WORLD WAR I

When the great world conflict of 1917-18 came, Isle of Wight
again proved herself worthy of her history by rallying to the cause

In 1917, Isle of Wight corn crop was increased by one-fifth. Between 18,000 and 20,000 cans of food were saved for winter use. A great increase in food crops helped to feed soldier boys in France.

Various councils of defense and safety were organized in Virginia during this war. Dr. Gavin Rawls was made chairman of the Council of Safety and the Council of Defense in this County.

Parko P. Deans of Windsor was made Fisheries Director.

B. P. Gay was appointed Local Food Administrator and chairman of the County Fuel Committee.

The Registration Board was made up of R. A. Edwards, Sheriff A. S. Johnson, Clerk of the Court, and Dr. Rea Parker.

George F. Whitley was the Government Appeal Agent for the County.

The Local Advisory Board was made up of George F. Whitley, Chairman, E. H. Williams and Parko P. Deans.

There were 1206 boys registered in Isle of Wight, but all of these were not called into service.

Besides the fighting men, other citizens served in many ways. The farmers and their wives produced and saved food. The boys and girls used their hoos and knitting needles. The bankers and business men bought and sold liberty bonds. The Red Cross organized campaigns for aiding our boys and their families. The teachers and pupils in our schools served bravely.

Isle of Wight is proud of the medals and special marks of distinguished service that many of her sons received. She is also proud of the simple wooden crosses that mark the places where

several of her sons lie buried, somewhere in France. George Dashiell, of Smithfield, was killed in action at Remonville. His grave is number one in the cemetery, near the bridge at Remonville. He was awarded a Silver Star for his distinguished service.

There were eighteen boys who died in the service of their Country during World War I. Some were killed in action, some died as a result of wounds they received in battle, and some from disease. Many of the boys who died in France were brought home, while some rest in Flander's Field.

WORLD WAR II

When the United States was drawn into World War II, Isle of Wight citizens stood ready to do their part.

Farms grew crops which yielded an all-time high harvest. Everyone who had a plot of ground large enough planted victory gardens. Citizens turned flower beds into vegetable gardens. Cabbages and tomato seeds were even planted in school classrooms, and plants taken home to be set out early. The unused land on school grounds was let out to classes and private citizens for use as victory gardens. Every family canned all their surplus foods for future use. Most families owned pressure cookers. Some people took their surplus foods to government-managed canneries, where foods could be put up in tin cans.

A Rationing Board was set up in the County, consisting of A. S. Johnson, W. D. Joyner and S. T. Holland. Others who served were A. E. S. Stephens and R. A. Rancy. The public school teachers of Isle of Wight issued ration books to citizens of their respective school communities, as did the teachers all over our land.

Ration offices were kept at Smithfield and Windsor to issue gas and oil coupons, etc.

First-aid courses were taught to the larger school children and community groups by trained instructors.

Air-raid drills were held, with local wardens trained to see to the safety of the people in case of an air-raid. The County participated in black-outs for the whole Hampton Roads area. Volunteer Observation Corps maintained look-out posts all over the County. They spotted and reported all planes that passed over by phone to a defense coordinator stationed in Norfolk.

The local Red Cross sponsored knitting and sewing projects. The women and girls of our County made much clothing for refugees and service men. Mr. C. M. Beale served as field director of the Red Cross for the County. The Red Cross did a fine job in aiding service men and their families in this County.

Service men were stationed at outposts throughout the County, but chiefly in the Smithfield-James River area. Dances for service men were sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club of Smithfield, in cooperation with the USO Recreational program.

Many defense bonds were bought in this County. All employers and employees joined in the great payroll deduction plan for buying bonds. Mr. L. T. Hall served as Defense Bond Chairman for the County. School children bought stamps regularly as their part in the great Bonds for Victory Drives.

School children also collected great amounts of scrap iron, rubber, and paper.

The teachers of the County, like all the teachers of the United States, registered the young men eighteen years old for the draft. The local draft board was made up of Harry G. Dashiell, J. Sherman Johnson, and Hoyt C. Haverty. Clerks of the Board were Miss Katherine Taliforro, Mrs. Emily J. Edwards, and Miss Harriet Brothers.

The Government Appeal Agents were Mr. A. E. S. Stephens, and Mr. Rodham T. Dolk.

Medical advisors for the County were Dr. T. H. Massey and Dr. Hugh Warren.

Officers of many ranks in all branches of service, including the women's divisions, served from our county.

Those who gave their lives for their County during this war were:

Marvin Hill Alphin
Emmett L. Boyce
Langley T. Catling, Jr.
Daniel P. Grinnan
Patrick H. Haverty, Jr.
Mac P. Hawley
Richard Lee Holland
Donald M. Johnson
James H. Johnson
Raymond Powell
Edward B. Rhodes
Franklin T. Turner
Joseph D. Wilson
Shirley T. Holland, Jr.

MEN OF DEEDS

JAMESTOWN PERIOD

RICHARD BENNETT (_____ -1674)

BACON'S REBELLION ERA

JOSEPH BRIDGER (1628 - 1686)

REVOLUTIONARY DAYS

JOSIAH PARKER (1751 - 1810)

Samuel Hardy (1758 - 1785)

FRANCIS BOYKIN (- 1805)

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES AND RECONSTRUCTION DAYS

EMMET M. MORRISON (1841 - 1932)

GAVIN RAWLS (1858 - 1922)

RICHARD BENNETT

Richard Bennett was the son of the Rev. William Bennett, and a nephew of Edward Bennett who were among the early settlers of Isle of Wight County.

As early as 1629, he was a burgess from Warrosqueake before Virginia was divided into shires or counties. In 1632, he was a justice of the court, which met every month. In 1634, he was made a councillor of state.

Richard Bennett was among those who fled from the colony when Sir William Berkeley was governor. He fled first to Maryland in 1643, and from there went to London. He returned to Virginia in 1651.

Richard Bennett was elected governor of the colony in 1652. He continued to serve as governor until 1655. This was at the time Oliver Cromwell was ruling in England during the day of Cavalier and Roundheads.

Richard Bennett was later sent to England as the Agent of Virginia to represent the colony's interest before parliament.

In 1656, he commanded the militia of three of the four military districts into which Virginia was divided, with the rank of Major-General.

In 1667, Major-General Bennett served as a Commissioner to Maryland to regulate the cultivation of tobacco. He was a member of the Council as late as 1674.

Richard Bennett owned the plantation of "Weyanoak" and "Kicstan" on the James River. There are many of his descendants

living in Virginia today who are proud to claim him as their ancestor.

JOSEPH BRIDGER (1628 - 1686)

Colonel Joseph Bridger was the third son of Samuel Bridger, Sub-dean and Auditor of the College of Gloucester, England. His father owned the Manor of Woodmancote in the parish of Dursley. It was at this manor that Joseph Bridger was born in 1628. He grew up in a home of many rich opportunities in education and culture. He became the most prominent man of Isle of Wight County in his day.

At the age of 29, in 1657, Joseph Bridger was Isle of Wight County's representative in the House of Burgesses. When he became a member of the House of Burgesses again in 1663, his name appeared as Captain Joseph Bridger. This time it is said that he was a member of every important committee but one.

In 1664, Bridger was a commissioner to adjust the boundary line of Virginia and Maryland.

In 1666, he was one of the commissioners chosen to work with men from Maryland and North Carolina regarding tobacco interests. In this same year of 1666, his name appeared as a member of the General Assembly - this time as Adjutant-General Bridger. He is usually referred to as "Colonel Bridger", as it was the title he held the longest.

In 1675, Bridger was a member of the Council of State. He served also as a colonel in the Indian wars.

In 1676 and 1677, he was a member of the court at Green Spring.

In 1676, Nathaniel Bacon, who fought against Gov. William Berkeley, demanded that Bridger surrender. He demanded this because Bridger was loyal to Governor Berkeley. Charges were presented against Bridger by some who said that Bridger had used public funds for his own private use. He fled to the Eastern Shore with Governor Berkeley for safety.

In 1677, Bridger was a member of the court at Middle Plantation. He was a witness to the will of Governor Berkeley. He is sometimes referred to as Berkeley's best friend and worst adviser.

In 1680, Bridger was a Councillor of State and commander-in-chief of the soldiers in Isle of Wight, Surry, Nansemond, and Lower Norfolk. He had under his command Col. Arthur Smith of Isle of Wight, Colonel John Lear, and Major Milnor of Nansemond.

In 1683, he was a member of the Council of State and of the General Court.

Bridger's will was dated April 9, 1685. The will was acknowledged in open court, which was then held at the Globe, about a mile from Smithfield.

The Isle of Wight Court House was located at the Globe, about a mile from Smithfield. It was located at the Globe until 1752, when it was moved to Smithfield. Bridger mentioned in his will special friends, and his brick house on the White Marsh farm where he lived. He had bought his beautiful home "Whitemarsh" in 1673. He married Hester Pitt, daughter of Col. Robert Pitt. They had seven children, although one son, Joseph, Jr., was left

out of his will because he had been a follower of Bacon, during Bacon's Rebellion.

Col. Bridger died on April 15, 1686, leaving a large estate of more than twelve thousand acres of land in Isle of Wight County besides unknown amounts in Surry, James City, and Maryland. He was buried in the field of his "Whitemarsh" home. His bones and a marble slab with an inscription that can still be read were removed to the Old Brick Church and may be seen at the foot of the chancel there today.

In the Virginia Gazette, published at Williamsburg in 1739, there was an account of a large amount of old English money being found in the ruins of a house where Col. Bridger lived in Isle of Wight County. It was found by an old Negro, who had given much of it away without knowing its value. No one knows how it came to be hidden there. Some say that it was hidden there for safekeeping during the time of Bacon's Rebellion. Others say that it was public money placed in Col. Bridger's hands, when he held several different offices in the county and state. Though no one ever discovered how it got there, it gave the old newspaper an interesting lost money case to solve, and brought back to memory the famous Colonel Joseph Bridger of earlier days.

JOSIAH PARKER (1751 - 1810)

Josiah Parker was born May 11, 1751. He was a descendant of Thomas Parker, who was given a land patent of three hundred eighty acres of land in the part of Isle of Wight County known as Smith's Neck in 1650. The Parkers had been living in Isle of Wight County over a hundred years when Josiah was born. He was reared with a

the advantages and education of a big landowner of those times.

Josiah Parker married the young widow of Joseph Bridger, the former Mary Pierce. They had only one child, named Ann Pierce Parker. Her father was so devoted to her that he educated her as if she had been a son. She grew up to be a very accomplished and gifted woman, much better educated than most women of her day.

Josiah Parker defended his State bravely during the days of the Revolutionary War. In 1775 he was made a member of the Continental Committee of Safety. He reached the rank of a full colonel during the Revolutionary War. He served with great distinction at Brandywine and Trenton. In the battle of Trenton, he had the honor of receiving the sword of the wounded Colonel Halls, Commander of the Hessians. When the famous artist J. Trumbull painted the picture "The Capture of the Hessians at Trenton", Col. Josiah Parker was placed on the left side, painted from real life.

Col. Parker is said to have had a very quick temper. Once while in a fit of temper, he resigned from the Continental service (1778). It is thought that he always regretted his hasty action. He was active in militia service until the end of the war. Both Thomas Jefferson and Lafayette wrote him letters showing their high regard for his ability as a leader.

Josiah Parker died May 11, 1810, honored and respected by all who knew him.

SAMUEL HARDY (1758 - 1785)

Samuel Hardy was born in Isle of Wight County in 1758. He was about the age of President James Monroe, who was a close friend of his. They boarded in the same home in Richmond, where they were

to school together. When they were older, they served in the Assembly at the same time.

Samuel Hardy's father was Richard Hardy, who was a vestryman of the Old Brick Church and a member of the House of Burgesses. Hardy's family had lived in Isle of Wight County a long time before Samuel was born. His family had settled here before 1636.

Samuel Hardy attended the College of William and Mary. He was made a charter member of Phi Beta Kappa on July 30, 1778. Phi Beta Kappa is a society for very outstanding students. To be a member of Phi Beta Kappa one must make very high grades. Membership in this society is a great honor.

Samuel was at William and Mary during the time that Rev. John Camm was president of the College. Rev. Camm had at one time been rector of the Old Brick Church in Isle of Wight County. It is quite likely that Samuel Hardy knew the Rev. Camm before he went to William and Mary.

Samuel Hardy was a good student of law and government. Only two days after he was admitted by the Court of Isle of Wight County to practice law in 1778, the people of the County chose him to represent them in the House of Delegates. He served as a member of the House of Delegates until 1781, when he was appointed to the privy council. He later became the Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia. In 1783, he was chosen as one of the delegates to the Continental Congress. He served his country in Congress until his death.

Samuel Hardy was known for his good humor and friendly way of dealing with everyone. Often there were hot arguments, angry

words, and sometimes even duels were fought, but Samuel Hardy was always calm upset people with his friendly good humor. Thomas Jefferson said that Hardy had but one fault - that of being too good-humored. Many think that it was Hardy's good humor that kept things going during those hard days when our Country was fighting with all of its might to become a free nation.

In 1784, when Congress adjourned, its members left a committee to act for them. Samuel Hardy was chosen as Virginia's representative on this committee. Later he was chosen as the chairman of the committee. This important job for a time gave him the same powers and duties as a president of Congress. He did his best to hold the committee together, but it soon went to pieces. He served his Country for the last time while riding out to Kingsbridge. He died in 1785, after breaking a blood vessel. His body was placed in a vault in St. Paul's Church in New York City. The expenses of his funeral were paid by the State of Virginia.

Samuel Hardy was such a great man that the State of Virginia named the County of Hardy, which is now in West Virginia, for him. Hardy District in Isle of Wight County still bears his name. He is counted among our greatest citizens of early days.

MAJOR FRANCIS BOYKIN (____ - 1805)

Major Boykin served with General Washington in the north, and was in his army that memorable winter at Valley Forge. He was at Yorktown when the British surrendered to Washington. He continued in service until the thirteen feeble colonies became a recognized nation in 1783.

When peace finally came, Major Boykin went back to private life on his own plantation. His plantation included the land on which our court house now stands. In the year 1800, Major Boykin gave the land for the present court house to the Commonwealth. He erected the first buildings at his own expense. He died in 1805, leaving his property to his son, Francis Boykin, Jr.

EMMET MASSALON MORRISON (1841 - 1932)

Col. Emmet Massalon Morrison was born at Smithfield, August 21, 1841. His parents were both natives of Isle of Wight County. He married Sarah Augusta Wilson in March, 1871. They had four children: Willis Wilson, George Emmett and twin sons, James and Edwin.

Col. Morrison was graduated from the Virginia Military Institute. While a student at V. M. I., he was a student under Stonewall Jackson. In the War Between the States he commanded the 15th Virginia Infantry, Pickett's Division. He was wounded and made prisoner at the Battle of Sharpsburg. He was held at Baltimore eight months. He was detained as a hostage for several weeks, for the alleged massacre of Federal troops at Fort Pillow. He was again taken prisoner at the Battle of Saylor's Creek. It is said that he fought in the famous Battle of the Boys when the V.M.I. Cadets marched out to New Market. He actually entered the service as a second lieutenant in the Provisional Army of Va. and rose through all the grades to the rank of colonel. He fought in the Battles of Frazier's Farm, Malvern Hill, Seven Pines, South Mountain, Crampton's Gap, Blaine's Crossroads, Five Forks, siege of Petersburg and several skirmishes.

Colonel Morrison, following the teaching profession, was made the first County Superintendent of Schools in Isle of Wight. He held this office for twelve years, 1870 - 1882, during some of the hardest days of our Country's life. He was at one time County surveyor. He died in 1932 and was buried in the Churchyard of the Old Brick Church.

GAVIN RAWLS (1858 - 1922)

Doctor Gavin Rawls was born at Carrsville, Virginia, on August 11, 1858. He attended Richmond College and was graduated in medicine from the Medical College of Virginia. He began practicing medicine at Carrsville in 1876 and continued until his death in 1922. He was a member of the Medical Society of Virginia.

In 1886 Dr. Rawls was appointed Superintendent of Public Schools in Isle of Wight County. He served in that position as long as he lived.

Dr. Rawls was most active in the Beaver Dam Baptist Church. He was a deacon, the treasurer and the clerk for many long years. He served as the Clerk of the Blackwater Association, to which all the Baptist Churches of this County and some adjoining ones belong for many years. He even supplied as pastor of Beaver Dam Baptist Church once when his church was without a pastor.

For a period of nearly fifty years, Dr. Rawls was prominent in the medical, religious, educational and political activities of our County and State. He had four children, two of whom were doctors.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- I. Organization of Early County Government
 - A. Division
 - B. First name
 - C. Reasons for changing the name
- II. Early Form of Government
 - A. Modeled upon English plan
 - B. Commissioners appointed
- III. Early Local Courts and Their Meeting Places
 - A. Establishment of county seat
 - B. The building of early courthouses
- IV. Establishment of County Courts
 - A. Appointment of Justices of the Peace
 - B. Court days as early educational feature
- V. County Divisions and Election of Officers
 - A. Division elections
 - B. County officers --how elected

Organization of County Government

In 1634, Isle of Wight was organized as one of the first eight shires or counties in Virginia. It was first named Warrosquyoake, or as it is sometimes spelled, Warrosquoake, after the Indian tribe living in a village on Pagan Creek. Later in 1638, because of the difficulty of spelling and pronunciation, the name was changed to Isle of Wight.

Early Form of Government

The government of the early shires or counties was modeled upon that in England. Lieutenant Colonels were appointed and commanded the troops in wars with the Indians. Sheriffs, sergeants, and bailiffs were elected; and, until 1691, every free man was entitled to vote. Indentured servants, when their terms of service were over, were allowed to vote also. In 1628-1629, commissioners were appointed and required to hold monthly meeting in the different shires or counties, which marked the beginning of county courts.

Early Local Courts and Their Meeting Places

In each county there was a village or community known as the county seat. In 1662, every county was required to set up near a courthouse, a pillory, a pair of stocks, a whipping post, and a ducking stool.

Near the courthouse was also a jail, an inn, and usually a store, where goods, imported in ships or made in Virginia, could be bought for tobacco. A church with a graveyard near by and a

hitching post near its gate, could always be found in every community, as well as the blacksmith's shop. A few scattered homes, usually of one story with an outside kitchen, were surrounded by gardens and orchards, and fields of tobacco and grain. The stable barn, and smoke house, as well as the hen house, cow pen, hog pen, and log cabin servants' quarters, were a necessary part of the early life in Isle of Wight. Men in blue homespun clothes, worked in fields and gardens, and children played in the unpaved streets of the villages.

The old Isle of Wight Courthouse was at one time within the boundary of Southampton County. It was located near the little village of Berlin on the old Kelle plantation.

Sometime during the early history of the county the courthouse was located near Blackwater bridge.

One of the first courthouses in the county was on the Globe Farm. It is not known just when it was built, although its site is well marked by heaps of brick-bats in the woods north of the farm. This farm was located about two miles west of Smithfield.

The Globe Farm was provided by the county in accordance with a very early law. It is said to have produced a very inferior grade of tobacco. The last of the ministers who lived there was buried in 1802. He was the Rev. Hubbard. Shortly afterwards the Globe Farm became the "Poor House" where the poor lived under the care of the Overseer of the Poor.

By order of the Justices of the County in 1749, the courthouse in Smithfield was begun. The courthouse, clerk's office, and jail were brick buildings erected at the corner of Main and

Pierce Streets. Across Main Street from the courthouse was a large vacant lot called the "courthouse green," which, on court days was filled with conveyances of all kinds used in those days. Auctioneers used the steps of the little brick clerk's office as a favorite spot for the hiring of slaves, the selling of slaves, and other property.

In 1800, Major Francis Boykin gave the land upon which the courthouse now stands to the Commonwealth, and erected the first buildings at his own expense. A modern fire-proof vault was added to the clerk's office in 1892.

The jail, built in 1804, was torn down in 1902 and a modern fire-proof structure was erected. The courthouse was remodeled in 1903 and again in 1954.

Establishment of County Courts

County courts were established early in our history. In 1751, eight Justices of the Peace were appointed. Four of these could act and compose a court, the oldest in the commission presiding. They were required to meet monthly. The day originally appointed for Isle of Wight was the first Thursday in each month but this was later changed to the first Monday. They continued to meet on this day till the County courts were abolished by the Virginia Constitution of 1902, when all matters adjusted in county courts were transferred to the circuit court, which meets on the first Mondays of March, June, October and December.

The County courts were for a long time an outstanding feature of Virginia. Court days provided an education for the people who met on the "Courthouse green". Since there were no

newspapers and few post offices, news had to be passed along by those better informed.

Judges were appointed for the county courts in 1870. Judge Atkinson was the oldest presiding judge in the state at the time the County Courts were abolished in 1904.

County Divisions and Elections of Officers

Isle of Wight County is divided into three magisterial districts: Windsor, Hardy, and Newport.

County elections are held every four years. Voters elect the following officers: a supervisor for each magisterial district, a county treasurer, a sheriff, a commonwealth's attorney, a commissioner of revenue, and a county clerk (elected for a period of eight years.)

The Board of Supervisors is a law-making body with executive power and it is composed of the three supervisors elected in the three magisterial districts. Also elected in each district is an overseer of the poor, and a magistrate.

The County Superintendent of Schools is appointed by a County School Board from a list of eligible men and women furnished to the Board by the State Superintendent of Instruction. He is appointed for a term of four years.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Isle of Wight was organized as a county in 1634.
2. Isle of Wight County was first named Warrosquyoake after the Indian tribe living on Pagan Creek.
3. The name was changed to Isle of Wight because of the difficulty of spelling and pronunciation of the Indian name Warrosquyoake.
4. The county courts began with the appointment of commissioner in 1628-1629.
5. In each county there was a village or community known as the county seat.
6. One of the first courthouses in Isle of Wight County was built on the Globe Farm.
7. The present Isle of Wight Courthouse is built on land given by Major Francis Boykin in 1800.
8. Justices of the Peace were appointed in 1751. They acted and composed a court, the oldest in the commission presiding.
9. Court days provided an education for the people. News had to be passed along by those better informed since there were no newspapers and only a few post offices.
10. Magisterial districts in Isle of Wight County are Windsor, Hardy, and Newport.
11. County officers are elected every four years.
12. The Board of Supervisors is a law-making body with executive powers.
13. The County Superintendent of Schools is appointed by a County School Board from a list of eligible persons furnished to the Board by the State Superintendent of Instruction. He is appointed for a term of four years.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What people were entitled to vote in Isle of Wight County before 1628?
2. What buildings were required in every county in 1622?
3. Describe the social life of an early Isle of Wight community.
4. Name the locations of early Isle of Wight Courthouses.
5. What was the Globe Farm required by law in every county?
6. When were judges appointed for county courts?
7. In what year were the county courts abolished?
8. What county officers are elected by the people in Isle of Wight?
9. How long is the term for which the county clerk is elected?
How long is the term of the other county officers?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

1. Make a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings concerning both early and present county government in Isle of Wight County.
2. Dramatize an early "Court Day" in Isle of Wight County.
3. Draw a frieze depicting an early Isle of Wight County Seat. Include the courthouse, pillory, stocks, whipping post, ducking stool, store, church with grave-yard near by, hitching post, blacksmith shop, scattered one-story homes with outside kitchens, gardens, orchards, fields of tobacco and grass. The stable, barn, smokehouse, hen house, cow pen, hog pen, log cabin servants' quarters. Show men in blue home-spun clothing working in fields and children playing in unpaved streets. Show auctioneers using steps of courthouse as favorite spot for selling and hiring slaves and for the sale of other property. Also show the types of conveyances used in those days.

WORDS TO MASTER

Warrosquyoake	commissioners	
bailiffs	pillory	conveyances
indentured	homespun	magisterial
shires	Globe	olibiblo
		overseer

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Early Travel

Roads

Ferries

Canal (Planned)

Railroads

Telegraph

Telephone

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

In colonial times the numerous creeks and rivers that cross Isle of Wight County were used as highways for both travel and trade. There were few dirt roads and travel across country had to be done on horseback along bridle paths. When a traveler reached a stream he rarely found a bridge across it, and he would have to foot it, or else swim over in order to continue his journey. After many years more roads were built and stage coaches were ordered from England.

The first roads were called "corduroy roads" because they were so rough. For these trees were cut, split and placed across the road. Later plank roads, made of heavy boards nailed to logs were used. Still later, gravel and rock roads that had a solid foundation were used.

In the summer of 1919, the lawmakers of Virginia met in special session to plan for better roads. Today Isle of Wight has several highways running through it, among them the National Highway No. 460, over which the Greyhound Company has a bus route from Norfolk to Richmond. There are two other bus routes through the county also. One goes through Smithfield and the other through Carrsville.

The early dirt roads were connected by ferries, which were the first means of transportation across the branches of the Pagan River. These were owned by the County, and each person, horse, and vehicle was charged $6\frac{1}{4}$ cents toll. When bridges were later built, the same charge was used, until the County

bought the bridges from private companies, and toll was abolished.

At one time plans were laid for a canal from Blackwater River to Pagan Creek near Smithfield. The canal was never dug, due to the fact that water transportation was being displaced by other methods of transportation. However, Smithfield continued its contact with the outside world for many years by boat.

There are four railroads that pass through the county. The Seaboard Air Line was the first to be built. It passes through Carrsville and the southern end of the County. While this railroad was being built through Isle of Wight, slaves were used as laborers.

The Norfolk and Western passes through Windsor and Zuni. The Virginia Railroad was built about 1906, and passes through Colosse and Walters. The Southern Railroad crosses the extreme lower end of the County.

There are several Western Union Telegraph offices in the County and a local telephone system with headquarters at Smithfield. This is the Home Telephone Company, developed within five years from one phone, that of the Gwaltney-Bunkley Peanut Company. It now serves all the county. The dial system will soon be in use, as its new home is now being erected in Smithfield.

EARLY SCHOOLS IN ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

Boys and girls in Isle of Wight County did not always have schools as we have them today. Once there were no big buildings, no school buses to carry children, no basket ball nor football, no bands. There were no high schools.

When the first white people came across the ocean and settled in Virginia at Jamestown, not so far from us, they brought their children with them. Soon other children were born in this new land. The mothers and fathers wanted these children to be able to read and write.

Not long after the settlement at Jamestown, some of the brave people decided to come across the James River and make homes in what we now know as Isle of Wight County. For the first twenty five or more years, these early white settlers had to fight with the Indians, but as soon as the whites had made their homes secure from Indian attacks, they started to bring in teachers for their boys and girls.

The early farms were large, and sometimes the people did not live close together as they do today. They did not have the roads we have. On some of the larger farms where there were a large number of children, the family would bring in a tutor, or as we would say today, a private teacher. In most cases this teacher was a man. Where the farms were smaller, sometimes the families would get together, and employ a tutor for the several families.

Young people in early Isle of Wight County enjoyed getting together and learning how to read and spell. They liked to be told stories by the teacher, some of them of the old country.

In some places, the children gathered for their school in an extra building on the farm. Sometimes the families would get together and build a small place out in a field for the school house. Fields in which no crop was planted were used for these school buildings. We read of "old field schools". Very likely a field which was not good for planting cotton, tobacco, or wheat and which the farmer did not want to plant became the site of the school house.

As it always happens, there were some poor people in Isle of Wight County, some who did not have the money to help pay for the teacher. Their mothers and fathers wanted them, too, to go to school.

Many of these children would not have been able to attend school, except for the kind-hearted men who, when they died, left by their wills some money to be used to teach the poor children.

One of these men in Isle of Wight was a Captain John Moone. He lived on Pagan River at a place now called Moonfield. When he died, he left the income from the sale of some cattle to help school the boys and girls of Newport District. Captain Moone died in 1655, just three hundred years ago. He was the first man in Isle of Wight County to show such interest in the education of the children of his county. When you grow older, you can read of other men who, like Captain Moone, left money for schools.

Captain Moone lived just across the narrow Pagan River from where there lived, for a time, a Benjamin Syms. Benjamin Syms moved from Isle of Wight To Hampton, and, when he died, left money to start a free school there. This was the first free school

started in Virginia and dates back to 1635, twenty years before Captain Moone left money for schooling in Isle of Wight County.

It is very likely that Benjamin Syms and Captain John Moone, close neighbors as they were, had talked about the need of some money for teaching boys and girls of their communities. So both of them left sums in their wills for this.

We do not know exactly the location of the school that was helped by Captain Moone. We do know that, early after the settlements in Isle of Wight County, some four schools were being run in Newport District for poor children.

Other well-to-do people also took an interest in schooling. In 1753, almost a hundred years after Captain John Moone died, a Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, the widow of Arthur Smith of Smithfield, left a sum of money to establish a free school in the Town of Smithfield. She even wrote that she wanted the boys and girls of that school to be taught Reading and Writing, but the boys only were to be taught Arithmetic. Why, I wonder, did she not want the girls to study Arithmetic?

SCHOOLS UNDER THE CHURCH

In those days, Isle of Wight County and our State of Virginia belonged to England. The church had charge of the schools. Teachers were provided by the Church, and the Elizabeth Smith School had to use teachers under the control of the Church. The building which was erected in 1753 for the Elizabeth Smith School still stands on Mason Street in Smithfield.

After the American Revolution, and after the winning of our independence from England, our forefathers decided it was

best to have the schools and the church separate. Elizabeth Smith School was taken from the control of the Church. A school continued there until our modern system of public schools in Virginia

FIELD SCHOOLS

After the Revolution the number of field schools grew in size. We do not have any record of how many of these existed in Isle of Wight County between the two great wars.

SCHOOLS IN SMITHFIELD

We do have some record of the private schools that were in the Town of Smithfield. Dr. Purdie of Smithfield has left us an unpublished history of the schools in that Town.

The people of Smithfield and the nearby community got together soon after the end of the American Revolution and decided to open a school in the town. Dr. Purdie, Lawrence Baker, William Taylor and Thomas Pierce were appointed a committee to secure a teacher for the school. In 1785 a man by the name of Gordon, from Scotland, was employed. Then came the Rev. Henry Burgess to take charge of the school. Mr. Burgess had been a teacher in the Elizabeth Smith School before the Revolution, when the school was under the control of the Church. He is reported to have been a very good teacher and was also a preacher. In 1790, he left Smithfield to accept the position as principal of the Millfield Academy. This Academy was for larger boys and girls, and had been built by the people of Isle of Wight and Southampton Counties. It was located on the road from Smithfield to Jerusalem (now Courtland, in Southampton County) about half way between the two places.

Other teachers in the Smithfield School were a Mr. Bowden and a Mr. Shields. Hamilton Shields was teaching in Smithfield when the War of 1812 broke out, and left his teaching to go as a captain with a company of Smithfield volunteers to fight in the War.

In 1816, James Mitchell and his sister ran a school in the old Boykins Residence. Next came Martin Dunn, described as a recent immigrant from Ireland. Joseph B. Whitehead also about this time had a school in Smithfield.

Another Irishman, Simon Patrick Walton, with a company of Smithfield patrons opened a school in 1817. The school was so successful that a second teacher had to be added. Two of the assistants at this school were James M. Jordan and Joel Holleman. Joel Holleman later became a congressman from Smithfield.

For girls only were the Oak Grove Academy and the Finney school. Not only did girls from Smithfield attend these schools, but girls from other parts of the county and those neighboring, were sent to the girls' schools.

In 1829, the people of Smithfield, through the influence of Mr. Walton, established the Smithfield Academy. This building also stands today on Mason Street in Smithfield, just a few hundred feet from the Elizabeth Smith School.

Mr. Walton was the first principal of the Smithfield Academy. Other principals were Q. A. Hoddard, W. W. Day, Jno. S. Stubbs, Clayton G. Coleman, James R. Carlick, George R. Atkinson, Samuel Moore and a Mr. Murat of New Hampshire.

Outside of Smithfield, the field schools were growing and the people of the state and county were interested in how to make those better schools.

THE PAUPER SCHOOLS

Early in the 19th Century, the State of Virginia made a move for free education. The Virginia Legislature of 1818 appropriated a part of the revenue of the Literary Fund for the education of poor children. Under the law, there was to be appointed in each county and city of the State, a local School Board known as the Board of School Commissioners. Men of these boards were to select the poor children, place them in school and to make arrangements with the teacher as to what was to be charged. This Board of School Commissioners also had to make a list of poor children in the counties and cities.

Three or four cents a day was to be paid by the state through the local boards for teaching these children. The cost of books and other school materials was to be paid for by other money received from the State.

The school commissioners each year had to report the number of poor children in the county, how many attended school, and what the books and school supplies cost. They also had to make suggestions as to how the plan was working and to recommend improvements.

In 1821 the School Commissioners for Isle of Wight County were: Joseph W. Ballard, Thomas Smolly, Exum Eley, Parker Wills, Joseph Blunt, John W. Duck, Josiah Holloman, Robert Butler, Jacob

H. Duck and Nathaniel Wills. Altogether there were ten of these men on the School Commissioner School Board. Each of these men represented one of the ten military districts then in our county.

In 1827, a State report showed that there were 150 poor children in Isle of Wight County, and that 50 of these were being schooled at the expense of money received from the state. If there were 50 poor children in the schools, we think that these were being taught with other children whose parents could afford to pay the cost of the school. There were reported that year eighteen schools in Isle of Wight County. If we divide the 50 children in eighteen places, we must believe that only a few school children in each school were rated as poor and that the state paid for the schooling.

By 1833, the number of poor children as reported in the poor census had increased to 350, with 198 being schooled at public expense. That year, twenty-nine Isle of Wight schools were reported as having one or more pupils enrolled as poor children.

Four years later, only twenty-four schools were reported enrolling poor children. That year, the Isle of Wight County School Commissioners made no report as to the number of poor children in the County.

In 1843, twenty-six schools were reported as having poor children enrolled. The number of so-called poor children had dropped to 159.

The Isle of Wight School Commissioners complained that under the so-called pauper system of schools, many children were growing up not being able to read or write. Some of the parents of the

children, while not being able to pay themselves, were too proud to be listed as poor and would not send their children to school. The hope was expressed that the Legislature of Virginia would in some way remove some of the difficulties.

Some progress was made in obtaining more and more children from seven to sixteen years of age, who were unable to pay for their schooling, to attend school. In 1845, the Isle of Wight School Commissioners reported that sufficient funds were received that year from the State Literary Fund to care for all children who could be persuaded to attend school. The Isle of Wight County school officials were placing a liberal meaning on the word "indigent", and were allowing children of parents who were not able to pay for their children to come to school anyway.

SCHOOLS DURING THE WAR

Then came the War Between the States. Isle of Wight County and all other places in Virginia had to start over with their school systems. Many of the teachers who once taught the boys and girls of the county never came back to the school rooms. The Literary Fund which had been such a help in educating some of the boys and girls was gone.

For several years after the close of the war, the State of Virginia was a military district. During the war, and for these years shortly after, there were few schools. Some of the old men who could not go to war became teachers. The people of Isle of Wight County wanted some kind of school. From the beginning of the county they had been anxious that some schooling be given their children.

A NEW SYSTEM OF SCHOOLS

By 1869, four years after the close of the war, a new State Constitution was written and adopted by the people of Virginia. When our State accepted this Constitution, it was allowed to come back to the Union, and we lost our name as a military district.

The new constitution provided for a system of public schools, the same system we have to-day.

Many people in Virginia did not like the new system of public schools. Some remembered that before the War the word "pauper" had been used to describe the schools of that day, and felt that maybe the new system would be like the old. Then there were some people in Virginia who thought they were better than the average person, and didn't want their children to associate with the poor children. There also was a feeling by a few that the old way of the churches running the schools was better than the new way. Then, of course, there was lack of money. Our forefathers had been on the losing side of a war. In this war, the soldiers of the North had marched across our State. Farmers had not been able to raise cotton or other crops. The money of the state, as well as that of the people, was gone. They had to start over, almost like their forefathers had done when they first came into the county. All of those things worked against the new school plan.

The people of Isle of Wight County were anxious to start some kind of schools. Col. E. H. Morrison had been appointed as Superintendent of Schools for the County and took office Oct. 1, 1870

THE FIRST SUPERINTENDENT

Col. Morrison was born in Smithfield on August 21, 1841. He was a graduate of V. M. I. and while there, was a student under the great Confederate general, "Stonewall" Jackson. Before the outbreak of the War Between the States, he had taught in one of the private schools in the Town of Smithfield. He also was at one time principal of the Smithfield Academy. When war came, he entered the military service, and rose from the rank of second lieutenant to that of colonel. He commanded the 15th Virginia Infantry of General Pickett's Division.

When the war was over in 1865, he came back to Smithfield and started again to teach. He also was a land surveyor. When Isle of Wight County, in accordance with the new constitution, decided to start a system of public free schools, he was selected the first County School Superintendent.

Col. Morrison had a big job to do. He had to see that three district school boards were organized. He also had to arrange for places in which the new schools could be taught. Then, too, he had to find some money to add to that sent by the State of Virginia to pay the teachers. Teachers had to be found. Books for the children to study had to be approved.

One of the hardest jobs was to find men who would be on the new school boards, men who were interested in the free schools. Early in 1870, three district school boards were set up. Each of these boards was to look after the schools in one of the three school districts, Newport, Hardy and Windsor. Before the war,

you remember there were ten of the school districts, with one board of ten men.

NEWPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT

In Newport District, Col. William H. Darden, Mr. William D. Folk, and Mr. Henry P. Parker were members of the School Board. In Hardy School District, Mr. E. P. Womblo, Mr. R. H. Randolph and Mr. A. H. White were the School Board. In Windsor School District, Mr. Alexander H. Asburne, Mr. Thomas J. Clements, and Mr. Jesse D. Council formed the Windsor District School Board.

Some of these men had been School Commissioners before the war -- Col. Darden, Mr. Womblo and Mr. Clements all had been School Commissioners before 1861. Mr. Parker declined to serve on the Newport Board, and Dr. John E. Purdie was selected in his place.

The Newport School Board met and decided to locate seven schools in that district. Three of these were to be at Smithfield. There was to be one for white boys, one for white girls, and one for Negroes. Other schools were to be set up at Carroll's Shop (now Carrollton), one for whites, and one for Negroes. The other two schools in the District were to be at Orbit, one for each of the races.

HARDY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Hardy School Board decided on four schools. Three of these were to be for white children and one for Negroes. The white schools were to be at Mill Swamp, Burwell's Bay and Pulley's Old School House. The one for Negroes was to be at Banks.

WINDSOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

In Windsor School District a school was located at Ducksville (now Walters), one near Franklin, one near Carrsville, and one at Barber's Cross Roads (now Indika), and one in the Masonic Hall at Windsor --all of these for white pupils. There was also set up a school for Negroes. We do not know exactly where this was, but do know that one of the early Negro schools in this district was about a mile east of Windsor.

(In the 1871 report, twenty-five schools were reported for Isle of Wight County. Twenty of these schools were for whites, and five were for the colored.

EARLY TEACHERS

(In those days, the County Superintendent had to give examinations to people who wanted to teach and pass on their qualifications. Supt. Morrison issued Certificate No. 1 to Miss A. M. Uzzle who was assigned to teach in the school at Burwell's Bay. Other early teachers were Miss Nellie Darden, a niece of Col. Darden, who taught at the Elm Grove School near Orbit. Col. Morrison, the Superintendent, also taught in the boys' school at Smithfield. Col. Darden, Chairman of the Newport District Board, resigned from the Board and accepted a position as teacher. The Rev. John Ward, pastor of the Mill Swamp Baptist Church, was the first public school teacher at the school near his church. Mr. Ward was very much interested in public education and assisted Col. Morrison in winning public favor for the free schools.

Teachers were also obtained from other parts of the State. One of the first teachers, Julia A. and Louis G. Smith came from Charlestown, Mass.

The early schools of Isle of Wight County were only on the elementary level. Four subjects were all the pupils had. These subjects were Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and Spelling. In a few years Grammar and Geography were added to the subjects.

The price of school books was very cheap compared to those you have to buy to-day. The Arithmetic books sold from 16¢ for the primary book, to 37¢ for the upper grades books. The three geographies used in the different grades of the school sold for 35¢, 75¢ and \$1.51. The grammars cost 30¢ for the lower book, and 60¢ for the big book. The Spelling Book sold for 12¢. The price of readers started at 12¢ for the first reader, and ran up to 75¢ for the sixth reader.

Some of your grandfathers might remember the names of some of these books, such as Davies' Arithmetics; Maury's Geographies; Bullion's Grammar and the famous McGuffey's Readers. These were the books used by the children who went to Isle of Wight County schools in the 1840's.

Spelling was the favorite subject. 310 of the 918 children enrolled the first year studied Spelling. Reading came next with 704 pupils studying it. Writing was studied by 515; Arithmetic 335, Grammar 210 and Geography only 203.

After ten years, the schools of the county showed much improvement according to Supt. Morrison. He reported that nearly

all of the teachers then had blackboards and were using them. These blackboards in many cases had been made by the teachers themselves.

Col. Morrison was well-suited for the position of a pioneer superintendent of schools. He worked hard to make the schools grow, to improve the teachers and the buildings. He also knew that the schools had to be well received by the public. Some of the men who helped him win favor with the people for the new schools, were the preacher, Mr. Ward, already mentioned; Mr. Alexander Ashburn of the then Winsor Board, and Mr. Edgar Rawls, a member of the County Board of Supervisors at that time. Col. Morrison realized that the schools of Isle of Wight County could not be operated for the four or five cents a day sent by the state for each day pupils attended school. So he, with his friends, appeared before the County Board of Supervisors, and instructed by the school boards of the County, asked that some local taxes be levied for schools. The Board of Supervisors ordered an election by the people of the county. By a vote of 315 to 102, the Isle of Wight voters, in May of 1871, decided to tax themselves for money to run the schools.

Superintendent Morrison continued his fight for more school funds, in addition to the head tax the voters had imposed. Within a few years, the Board of Supervisors fixed a tax on property for the support of the schools. This tax, for the first year, was 10¢ on a \$100.00 valuation of property, and by action of the Board of Supervisors, was doubled in 1875.

In the first school session, the schools were run an average of 4.1 months. The daily average attendance was 493 of the 928 children enrolled.

By 1880, the daily average attendance had increased to 936 of the 1440 on roll. Superintendent Morrison had seen both the attendance and roll almost doubled.

THE SECOND SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. W. S. Holland, a lawyer, born and living near Windsor, was the second superintendent of schools under the present system. He served for only one term of four years.

Superintendent Holland was interested in bringing some of the small schools together and in making some two-teacher schools instead of the small one-teacher schools which prevailed at that time. Smithfield, Mill Swamp, Windsor, Carrsville, Great Mill and Sycamore Lawn were schools that were made two-teacher schools. Great Mill was near Carrsville, and Sycamore Lawn a few miles from the present Isle of Wight School. The roll of the Isle of Wight Schools grew to 2384 and the daily attendance to 1285. There were 50 teachers employed and the school term was 7.2 months.

Even with the longer school term and a larger number of teachers, many of the children still could not read and write. Only three-fifths of the white children were reported as being able to read, and one-half able to write. It was worse with the colored children, with only one-half being able to read and one-third being able to write. While this record seems to be a bad one, we must remember that during colonial times, over half of the men who owned real estate in Isle of Wight could not write their

names and had to use their marks on legal papers. We are also told that only one of ten of the women of that time could write her name.

Superintendent Holland, like Col. Morrison before him, saw much improvement in the Isle of Wight County Schools.

THE THIRD SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gavin Rawls, a doctor of Carrsville, became the third County Superintendent. He was appointed in 1880, and was superintendent until 1922, altogether thirty-six years.

Dr. Rawls also had to go before the Board of Supervisors for more money to run the schools. He did not have much success in this until 1910, when the tax rate was increased to 35¢ on the \$100.00 of assessed valuation.

In 1900, the roll had jumped to 2497 and the attendance to 1382. There were sixty-six teachers employed.

For the first twenty years of their being, the Isle of Wight County School Boards did not own any property. In 1890, the first property owned by a School Board in the county was reported with a value of \$1,400.00. By 1900 the value of property owned was placed at \$4,350.00. Schools were conducted in private homes, old halls, such as the Masonic Hall in Windsor, and in old school houses built by patrons on private land. Such buildings as the old Elizabeth Smith School and the old Smithfield Academy in Smithfield and the Old Pulley School House near Isle of Wight are examples of the kind of school houses children in those days attended.

During the period from 1900 to 1910 changes were made in the size of the schools. Instead of the two-teacher schools some of the schools became larger and the word "graded" was used to tell about these larger schools.

In 1905, a famous campaign known as the May Campaign, took place in Virginia. Some of the important men and women in the State wanted all of the schools to be better. They also wanted high school work done in the small Virginia schools.

The campaign was so successful that the Virginia Legislature made it possible to establish these high schools.

Isle of Wight County people were ready for the new step, and under the leadership of Dr. Rawls, many of the smaller schools were combined and high school work of two or more years offered.

Smithfield was one of the first of the Isle of Wight schools to build a new school. Here eight teachers were employed and 217 pupils enrolled, with the larger children having the advantage of a full four-year high school course.

In the 1904-05 session the following schools in the County were offering some high school work. We also give the names of the principals.

SCHOOL	PRINCIPAL
Smithfield	C. M. Farmer
Isle of Wight	C. S. Scott
Windsor	J. E. Moot
Darden X Roads	Octavia Eley
Carrsville	Mollie H. Chalmers

SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL

Rescue

Marion Williams

Battery Park

Miss E. E. Shelton

Mills Swamp

J. W. Crossman

By 1910, the roll was 2640 and the daily average attendance 1583. The teachers in number were not as many as in 1900, probably because of consolidation. Forty-three white schools were reported as operating in Isle of Wight County in the 1908 report.

EARLY CONSOLIDATION

In 1910, the white schools had been reduced to 19. Nine of these schools had more than three teachers each. Five were two-teacher schools and there were still five one-room white teacher schools. The nine larger schools were Isle of Wight, Smithfield, Windsor, Carrsville, Mt. Carmel, Mill Swamp, Rushmere, Rescue and Carrollton. The two-teacher schools were Comet, Darden X Roads, Battery Park, Clatons and Zuni. One room schools were at Mogarts, Longview, Lone Pine and Line Pine.

TRANSPORTING THE CHILDREN

With the bringing together of some of the small schools it was necessary to transport the children from the places where there were no schools. As early as 1908, Superintendent Rawls had started a system of transportation of school children. This was one of the first transportation systems in Virginia. At first, wagons covered with canvas were used. The children called these "Gypsy wagons", but most of the grown people called them "kid wagons." The single wagon was pulled by one horse or mule and carried ten or twelve children as a load. Double wagons were

pulled by a team of horses or mules. These carried a load of twenty or twenty four children. Sometimes the wagon routes were as long as six miles and required as much as two hours to make the trip to school. Very seldom did the horses or mules move faster than a walk. In cold weather the small children got very cold. Their mothers often would heat bricks and place them in the wagon to help keep the little feet warm. When the wagons reached the school, the children would crowd around the stove in their room, and the kind teacher would take the hands of the little children and rub them so they would get warm. Sometimes the larger boys would get off the wagons and walk beside them to school. In this way they could keep warmer than in the canvas covered wagons. It wasn't hard for them to keep up with the slow-moving horses that pulled the wagons.

In 1919, the County School Board purchased the first motor truck to replace one of the double wagons. This truck had rubber curtains. There were no heaters. The first tires were of solid rubber. This way of riding to school was not so good as that we have to-day, but the trip could be made in faster time and the children would not be on the trip so long as in the covered wagons. The first truck had much trouble with the muddy roads of its day. In winter it would bobble in and out of mudholes, but sometimes the mud was too much, and kind neighbors had to come with horses and mules to pull the truck out of the mud so it could go on to school. Sometimes the trucks would get almost to school and then be mired down. Then the children, singing and laughing, would walk on to the school, hoping that by afternoon the truck

would be out of the mud and ready for them to start home. Gradually the school trucks were replaced by school buses like those we have now. It may be that some of the mothers and fathers of children in our school to-day can tell of when they rode the kid wagon, or the school truck.

THE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

When the new school system began in 1871, arrangements were made to have a school board composed of three members from each school district of the County. In Isle of Wight, we first had three school boards, one for each of the school districts, Hardy, Newport and Windsor. In 1874, the Town of Smithfield was made a school district. These four school boards looked after the schools in their districts. Once a year, all four would meet together and make out a report for all the schools of the county.

The Virginia Legislature in 1922 did away with district school boards and decided that one school board should run the schools in each county. This new county school board was to be composed of one member from each of the school districts in the county.

In Isle of Wight County the first county school board was made up of Dr. R. Lee Seward, Chairman from the Newport School District; Mr. W. R. Hall of the Hardy District; Mr. J. H. Gwaltney of the Windsor District; and Dr. Rea Parker of the Smithfield Town District. Three of these men, Dr. Seward, Mr. Hall and Dr. Parker, had been on the old district school boards.

A few months after the new county school board took over, Dr. Rawls, the county school superintendent, died. Under his long leadership, the schools had grown in number and had added

to the subjects they were teaching. A new brick building had been erected in Windsor in 1917 and in Smithfield in 1921. The new frame building at Isle of Wight also had just been completed at the time of his death.

The number of schools in the county was the highest in its history during the time Dr. Rawls was superintendent. During the last fifteen years of his office, consolidation had reduced the white schools to fourteen, with ten of these schools doing some high school work. Two of the high schools, the one at Windsor and the one at Smithfield, had become accredited high schools.

THE FOURTH SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Rawls was succeeded in 1922 as superintendent by L. T. Hall. This man had been principal of the Windsor High School since 1913, and had seen it grow from a two year high school to an accredited high school, with over 100 students in high school.

From 1922 to the present day, consolidation of schools has gone on. The number of white schools has been reduced to four.

NEGRO SCHOOLS

The negro schools also have been combined. In 1922, there were twenty-six of these small schools. Today there are seven. Three of these Negro schools are very large schools. The Training High School near Smithfield is the only one of the Negro schools doing high school work, and has a roll of almost 1200 pupils. The Georgio Tyler School at Windsor is a seven grade elementary school with 450 pupils, and the Camptown School, just out of Franklin and also doing elementary work, has 300 pupils. The four other colored schools are made up of Trinity and Lawnes,

both three-teacher schools, and Bridger and Carrollton, two-teacher schools. Isle of Wight County saw the last of its one-room schools, either for white or colored pupils, when the Godwins Colored School was consolidated with the Trinity School in 1951. The last one-room teacher school for whites, that at Rescue, was consolidated with the Smithfield School in 1938. While Rescue was a one-teacher school, it was housed in a four-room brick building.

In 1925, the roll for all the Isle of Wight County Schools was 3588, and the daily average attendance 2372. Ninety-eight teachers were employed in the schools.

ISLE OF WIGHT SCHOOLS IN THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Since 1923, there has been a gradual consolidation of the smaller schools of that date to the four larger white schools of 1955. This also has been true of the colored schools.

In 1923 the Dardens X Roads two-teacher school was consolidated with the Carrsville School. In the same year the Battery Point School was consolidated with the Smithfield School. The next year the one-room school at Claytons was brought into the Zuni School. In 1924 also, the one-room school at Hornes was consolidated with the Isle of Wight school. In 1926, all high school pupils from Mt. Carmel, Mill Swamp, Bay View and Carrollton were assigned to the Windsor School for the first named school and for Smithfield for the last three named schools. In 1927 the Bay View School at Rushmere was completely consolidated with Smithfield, and the Comet School, a two-teacher school, was consolidated with Smithfield and Isle of Wight. In 1934, Zuni was consolidated with Windsor and Mt. Carmel with Carrsville. The Rescue school, from which the high school children had been sent to Smithfield in previous years, was completely consolidated with Smithfield in 1936. This ended the consolidation of elementary white schools. In 1950, the high schools at Carrsville and Isle of Wight were consolidated with the Windsor and Smithfield schools, leaving four white elementary schools in the county with two, one at Windsor and one at Smithfield, doing four years of high school work.

The courses offered in the high schools have been improved through consolidation. Classes in Vocational Agriculture and

Home Economics, as well as in Business Education, have been added. Public school music has become one of the subjects taught and in some of the schools bands have been started.

IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION

Much improvement has been made in the transportation of the children to school. Kid wagons and trucks with home made bodies have been replaced by modern school buses. This year, forty of these are being used by the Isle of Wight schools to transport over 2800 children to school daily. Each school in the county, both white and colored, has at least one school bus serving the transportation needs. Last session (1953-54) Isle of Wight School buses traveled over 370,000 miles at a cost of 15.4¢ a mile. Fifteen years ago, in 1939, the county had twenty-two buses, which traveled 148,000 miles at a cost of 7.2¢ a mile. Fifteen years before that in 1924, the county used 40 units of transportation, some wagons, which traveled 77,000 miles at a cost of 9.6¢ a mile. You can see how in a period of thirty years the transportation has improved. The value of county owned school property also has shown marked increases. We have said that in 1890 the county school boards owned only \$1,400.00 worth of property. In 1900, this had been increased to \$4,350.00; in 1910 to \$32,245.00; in 1920 to \$148,895.00; in 1930 to \$298,000.00; in 1940 to \$460,000.00; and in 1954 to \$1,664,330.00. Much of the new value was added as a result of the 1950 bond issue, through which Negro school property was greatly improved. That year saw the addition to the

Training School, the erection of the Georgie Tyler School at Windsor, and the Camptown School at Franklin. Additions were also added to the white schools at Isle of Wight, Smithfield and Windsor.

The Negro schools also have gone through a process of consolidation. To-day the Training School does all of the high school work for the colored children. Allens, Carrsville, and the old Camptown School have been replaced by the new Camptown School. Walnut Grove, Shiloh, Fairview, Holly Grove, Central Hill and Mitchells, as well as Windsor Colored, make up the new Georgie Tyler School near Windsor. Gravel Hill and Fair Oaks have joined to make the new Lawnes School. Ebenezer, Livy Neck, Moonfield, Macedonia, Davis Hall, Sandy Mount, now are a part of the elementary department of the Training School. Godwins has been combined with Trinity.

The high school enrollment of the Isle of Wight county Schools has kept pace with the consolidation. In the session of 1953-1954, there was a total of 855 boys and girls enrolled in the high schools and a graduating class of 119.

In 1915, there were only 165 pupils in the County doing high school work, with many of these in the two-year high schools.

Isle of Wight County in 1953-1954 enrolled 3719 pupils, had a daily average attendance of 3230 and employed 128 teachers and principals. The state funds were \$277,823.00, and the county funds were \$294,279.00. This means that the State sent to Isle of Wight County for each day that a child attended school, 48¢

a day, and the taxpayers of Isle of Wight County put up 51¢ a day for each day that a child attended. This 99¢ a day goes as payment for the teacher, for fuel and lights, for insurance, for janitors supplies, for transportation, for payments on buildings and many other things that are needed to teach the boys and girls of Isle of Wight County.

CHURCHES OF ISLE OF WIGHT

Episcopal

The first place of worship, and the beginning of the Episcopal church in Virginia, was at Jamestown. Captain John Smith described it as follows: "We did hang an awning to three or four trees, to shade us from the sun; our walls were rails of wood, seats were of unhued trees, till we cut planks; our pulpit a bar of wood nailed to two neighboring trees; in four weather we shifted to an old rotten tent."

This was the colonists first church until they built a homely building like a barn. Later this building was remodeled. Broad windows were made which would open and shut. The pulpit and pews were made of cedar.

Strict laws were made in regard to church duties. Anyone absent from divine service any Sunday without good excuse, was fined one pound of tobacco. If absent a month, he was fined fifty pounds.

The Old Brick Church

The oldest Protestant church on the North American Continent is located about five miles from the town of Smithfield. It is known as the "Old Brick Church", as well as St. Luke's. It is said to have been erected in 1632 under the supervision of Joseph Bridger, father of Col. Joseph Bridger.

The church is built of bricks made of clay of the very best quality and put together with a mortar from a well-burnt oyster shell lime and building sand.

In the rear of the church is the grave of Dr. Alexander Galt, who lived and practiced medicine near the church for many years.

Just back of the church is the grave of Rev. Alexander Norris, who fell from a church window, broke his neck and was buried just under the window.

This church was used very little from the outbreak of the Revolution to about 1830, when it was almost completely abandoned. Its restoration was completed in 1894.

There are many dedicated memorial windows, in memory of Rev. Robert Hunt, Pocahontas, Capt. John Smith, John Rolfo, Sir Walter Raleigh, General Washington, Robert E. Lee, Rev. James Blair, the first president of William and Mary College, and many local families.

The old fashioned wine glass pulpit with the sounding board stands on the right side.

A queen reading desk of the period of Charles II stands in the chancel and a handsome Holy Table in memory of Josiah Parker.

Baptist Churches

Mill Swamp Baptist Church

The Baptist people in Virginia, especially in Isle of Wight, requested the Baptists in London to send over a minister to help organize a Baptist Church in the colony. The London Baptists ordained Robert Nordin and Thomas White, and sent them over to preach the Gospel in Isle of Wight and the surrounding regions. White died before reaching the shore.

Rev. Nordin helped to establish the first Baptist Church ever organized in Virginia in 1714. This was called Burleigh Church. Mill Swamp is said to be located on the exact site of Burleigh Church.

Burleigh went out of existence for a period of forty-three years. This was due partially to epidemics of sickness that caused many families to move to North Carolina and partially to misunderstandings in the church.

Samuel Jones was the first man to receive baptism, after old Burleigh Church went out of existence. He probably was the founder of Mill Swamp Church.

Mill Swamp, known as the mother of churches of the Baptist denomination in this section, came into existence on July 2, 1774 just two years and two days before the birth of the American Republic July 4, 1776.

In 1775, Thomas Cofer deeded to the Baptist Society the land where Mill Swamp now stands. Most of the early Baptist churches were located near a swamp, creek, or a branch because

they needed water for baptizing.

David Barrow became the first pastor in 1774, and served until 1798. After David Barrow left, Jesse Holleman was pastor, then James Lancaster. Lancaster preached many years here. Next followed the Cofers, the Jonoses, the Bells, the Womblos. Such names have come down from those misty ages to the present time.

The church began to send out its branches in September 1774. After establishing a church, the members of the church were required to attend each of the branches four times a year, at the time of their quarterly meetings. After a period of time, these branches became independent.

The church has had four different buildings. After a fire in 1928, the present colonial brick building was built.

Methodist Churches

Rev. Robert Williams has the honor of establishing Methodism in Virginia. He was born in England, but was very poor and sold his house to pay for his debts, before coming to the new world. He received a license to preach under the authority of the regular missionaries in the American field from John Wesley.

He first preached in Norfolk, Virginia in 1772. His first sermon was at the door of the Court House there. He preached and formed Methodist societies in the section of the state south of Petersburg. Robert Williams was said to have preached the first Methodist sermon on Virginia soil, formed the first society, printed the first Methodist book, was the first Methodist to marry and the first to die.

Francis Asbury landed in Norfolk in 1775. He preached in private houses, chapels and barns in country surroundings, including Isle of Wight.

The Virginia Conference for 1800 was to be held in Norfolk but on account of the smallpox, was held at the home of William Blount.

Benn's Church

Benn's Meeting House, and the land on which it stands, were willed to the Methodist Convention by George Benn in 1813. This is the mother Church of Methodism in Isle of Wight.

We have very few records of any Methodist church, and Benn's is no exception. Except for Bishop Asbury's Journal and the will of George Benn, giving the church property to the Methodist

denomination, there are no records, save the most recent. The church was rebuilt in 1838, and again in 1888. The present brick structure was erected in 1924. It stands in the same beautiful grove of oaks, within a few feet of the old building which has been removed. This church is located near the Old Brick Church.

Benn's Church began to send out and form circuits in different sections of the state. There are many different Methodist churches in the county today.

Prosbyterian Churches

There are two beautiful churches of the Presbyterian faith that have been organized and built in this county within the last few years.

The Bethany Presbyterian Church located in Zuni, is a lovely brick building with a spacious recreation hall. It is the center of social life, contains an excellent library and is growing rapidly.

In the fall of 1928, another Presbyterian Church was opened for services near Boaz, known as Boaz Presbyterian Church.

Rev. S. K. Emurian, missionary pastor of the Presbyterian Church, guided and laid the foundation for the erection of each of these churches.

QUAKERS OR FRIENDS

The Quakers had a large following in Isle of Wight County at an early date. They had a sizable meeting house in what is known as "Levy Neck". Another Quaker Church was near Carrsville and known as the "Johnson meeting House."

The first case of persocution of Quakers was that of William Parrott and Edward Jones about 1663. They were arrested for having a meeting at Parrott's house, and were kept for some time as prisoners in the house of the Sheriff of Isle of Wight County.

One of the most important of the early questions demanding the attention of the Quakers was marriage. It seems that from the first, marriage was kept strictly within the society.

As early as 1661, the Quakers had formed the English law to recognize their form of marriage. The first step was by the parties, who declared their intention of getting married at a church meeting. The women's meeting then appointed a committee to see if the woman was clear from any other marriage. The men's meeting did the same for the man. If passed on, the two were at liberty to marry.

Friends were appointed to attend marriages as overseers of the marriage and see that things were managed in decency and good order. They had to bring a report to the next meeting.

Quakers were warned against costly clothes and new fashions. They were to have no folds in their coats or any other unnecessary show in their dress.

The Quakers have been firm in their stand against war. Their position met with small respect in any of the colonies. They refused to train and were fined. If they refused to pay the fine, it was collected by duress or they were put in jail.

There is one Quaker Church in this county at Rescue at the present time, and there is one not many miles from the line in the County of Southampton which was once a part of Isle of Wight.

Assemblies of God

The General Council of the Assemblies of God came into existence as the result of a spiritual movement which began early in the twentieth century and which spread in a short time to all quarters of the world.

No one man is credited with origin of the movement, for there are evidences of Pentecostal outpouring of the Spirit in widely separated places almost at the same time. A group known as "gift people" held a Pentecostal Convention in New England in 1897. Sarah Smith, later a missionary to Egypt, reported that, to her knowledge, there were forty or fifty who had been baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1900 in Tennessee.

The Assemblies of God owes its existence primarily to an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon a group of earnest Christians in Topeka, Kansas in 1901. From this revival small groups of Christian workers scattered throughout Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Pine Grove Assembly of God

In February, 1929, John F. Slye and J. Edward Garus came from Newport News to Bayview Methodist Church at Rushmore for two weeks. Rev. Somerville was the pastor. The same Spring a meeting was held in the Oak Grove Sunday School Building near the Rev. John W. Ward plantation, and services were continued there until 1931, when a tent was pitched for a campaign on the Thomas property in Smithfield. After the tent meeting, the old Comet School building was purchased and used for services for a short

time. Then the congregation decided to expand their services to the area by going to various homes for meetings. In the Fall of 1932, a brush arbor was erected on the Roger Holmes' property near Whitley's Cross Roads. That was used for services during good weather but the services were held in homes throughout the winter months. The name of the church at this time was the First Pentecostal Church of Isle of Wight County. A tabernacle was built on the same property in the winter of 1932 and Spring of 1933. That Fall the Tabernacle was enclosed and made a more substantial structure.

In the year 1934, the church was organized and affiliated with the Potomac District Council of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council of the Assemblies of God, of Springfield, Missouri. The officers elected were Fenton L. Jones, Otney Uzzell, Elmo Batten, Trustees; Fenton L. Jones was Treasurer and Elmo Batten was Secretary. Rev. J. Edward Carus was the pastor until October 1937. The church name became the Pine Grove Assembly of God.

The church property was completely remodeled and enlarged in 1951

Christian Church

A group of 30 preachers headed by Rev. James O'Kelly withdrew from the Methodist Episcopal Conference because of differences of belief in 1793. They met that year at Reese's Chapel in Charlotte County, Virginia, and agreed to give time and thought to the withdrawal. On August 4, 1794 they met at Lebanon Church, Surry County, Virginia. Action was taken and the new church denomination began.

The purpose of the Christian Church was to promote union of Christ's followers. In the theological belief the Christians and Methodists are alike, but the matter of church government differs greatly.

In 1931, the Christian and the Congregationist denomination merged and took the name Congregational Christian Church. The Congregational Church has been noted for its interest in education and its missionary zeal.

Antioch Christian Church

Antioch is the earliest Christian Church in Isle of Wight County. It was known in the early days of the conference as "Republican Chapel", then as "Old Chapel", sometimes as "Chapel Grove" and finally as "Antioch". It was built before 1700 and used as an Episcopal chapel, until the Revolutionary War. It was located near the site of the Old Isle of Wight Court House near the Blackwater Bridge.

In 1828, the present name of Antioch appears in the conference records. It has sent out several ministers among whom are:

Dr. J. P. Barrett, Rev. J. W. Barrett and Rev. D. P. Barrett,
our first native born white foreign missionary.

Antioch is the mother of Mt. Carmel, Isle of Wight Court
House and Windsor. It is still a strong country church.

Origin of the Towns

Introduction

Smithfield

Windsor

Isle of Wight

Carrsville

Rescue

Battery Park

Zuni

Other Towns

ORIGIN OF THE TOWNS

The northeastern part of Isle of Wight County is bordered its entire length by the James River. Smithfield is five miles from the James and from that town a main highway runs through the county to its southwestern border. Along this route lie most of the important towns of the county. They are Smithfield, Windsor, Isle of Wight and Walters. Zuni is located near the Southampton County line. Rescue, Battery Park and Carrollton are found near the James River a few miles south of Smithfield. Other towns are Margarts Beach, Rushmore and Benns Church.

The population of the County is 14,906. (Taken from the 1950 census.)

SMITHFIELD

Smithfield is located in the northeastern part of the county on a high bank of the Pagan River. This is a navigable stream and made Smithfield the principal port of the county before the building of railroads and the coming of steam. Smithfield made contact with the neighboring cities and also foreign ports by boat. The big event of the day for the people was the docking of the steamer and mail boat that brought mail, passengers, visitors and freight. The first boats were the schooners and later the steamers. Two ferries were built in 1748 and used to cross Pagan and Cypress Creek.

Arthur Smith was the owner of the land on which Smithfield is located and for him the town was named. It is the largest town in the county and was at one time the county seat, until this was moved to Isle of Wight in 1806. The old Courthouse still stands at the corner of Mason and Main Streets and is of architectural interest because of its rotunda. It now is being preserved by the A. P. V. A., a society of ladies who preserve things of historical interest.

Smithfield was not made a town until 1752, but for more than a hundred years before that date, it was quite a settlement, and had a large trade in rum, bacon, tobacco and sugar. It was at one time the largest peanut market in the world. Today it is known all over the world for its ham and pork products. It has a multi-million dollar industry and the "Smithfield Ham" has made Smithfield famous.

The town is eighty miles from Richmond and twenty miles from Norfolk. In early times, the main stagecoach route from Richmond to Norfolk passed through Smithfield, and fresh relay horses could be obtained here. It is written in George Washington's diary that he spent the night of October 29, 1729 in Smithfield. He left early the next morning and ate breakfast at Hog's Island, arriving at Williamsburg in time for dinner.

The climate of Smithfield is very pleasant due to the nearness to the Gulf Stream.

The water comes from artesian wells.

The population is about 1,180 excluding Pagan Pines. (Taken from 1950 census.)

WINDSOR

Windsor is the second largest town in Isle of Wight County and was known as a farmer's market and school center. It was the site of the famous Dean's Academy which gathered students from all over Tidewater Virginia.

Windsor has a beautiful old English name and was known for a time as Windsor Station. It is located on the Norfolk and Western Railroad about eight miles from Isle of Wight Courthouse. Windsor had its beginning in 1855 and was made a town in 1902.

It is the most important station for mails in the county, having a star route and several rural routes which leave Windsor daily.

The population is 451. (Taken from 1950 census.)

ISLE OF WIGHT COURTHOUSE

Isle of Wight is the present county seat and has been since it was moved from Smithfield in 1800. A few houses, stores and gasoline stations are settled near monument to the Confederate Soldier, which stands at the center of a circular grass plot just outside the wall that encloses the county buildings. The records of the county are in fair condition considering their age, and the troublesome times through which they have passed.

During the Revolution, Mrs. Francis Young, wife of a clerk, buried them to prevent destruction by the raiding Tarleton. During the War Between the States, they were first hidden in the woods, and then carried into other counties for safe keeping.

CARRSVILLE

Carrsville got its name from the Carr family who lived there. It is located on the Seaboard Airline Railway about thirty miles from Portsmouth, near the Nansomond County line.

A small battle was fought there during the Civil War. The battle occurred near the site of the old school building.

RESCUE

Rescue is located on the east side of Jones' Creek, near the James River. It has a good harbor, making it an ideal location for those who wish to engage in oystering and fishing.

BATTERY PARK

Battery Park is located at the mouth of Pagan Creek. In 1692, it was made a custom's port by order of the House of Burgesses. (Customs are taxes paid to the government on goods brought in from foreign countries.)

A large number of people who live there engage in the oyster business.

ZUNI

The little village of Zuni is located on the Norfolk and Western Railroad about eight miles from Windsor. It is on the Blackwater River and has become a very good peanut market, due to the fact that the Columbia Peanut Co. has a branch factory there.

OTHER TOWNS

Walters is a small village on the Virginia Railroad.

Rushmore is located five miles north of Smithfield near the James River. It is known for many years as Ferguson's wharf. It was also the home of the Warrosqueake Indians.

Another early settlement was Bennett's Plantation located on the James River, and known to-day as "The Rocks."

Carrollton and Benns Church are two prosperous communities a few miles south of Smithfield.

Morgarts Beach is on the James River, five miles from Smithfield. Many residents of Smithfield own summer homes there.

AGRICULTURE IN ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

Agriculture provides a living for many people in Isle of Wight County. The climate of the county is mild, with a good rainfall. The soil is gray, medium to light sandy. This makes it possible to grow many different crops. The main crops are peanuts, corn, cotton, potatoes and food crops.

The first crop raised by the early pioneers was tobacco. This crop was grown all through the Colonial Period. It was used as money as late as 1749 and 1783. Each time a tobacco crop was planted, a new field was selected. When no more new land was available, the colonists began to learn means of rebuilding the soil.

In 1822, the first state agricultural society was organized. The planters felt that there was a need of a change in method. Even before this, date many of the planters had stopped raising tobacco and begun other crops more suited to the county's soil and climate. The census shows that by 1850 very few people were raising tobacco.

Instead of tobacco more suitable crops were grown. These crops were corn, potatoes, peas and beans. The early pioneers first learned about raising corn from the Indians. Captain John Smith brought back to Jamestown the first corn when he visited the Warrosqueake Indians to get food for the starving colonists. The Indians called the corn maize. The colonists were seen to learn from the Indians how to raise this crop. Today corn production has grown until it is considered one of our leading

money crops. In 1952, Isle of Wight had the second highest corn yield in Virginia. Under the leadership of the county agent, a corn raising contest was held with 60 persons taking part. In this contest the winner produced 174.37 bushels per acre.

Isle of Wight has long been justly famous for her "Smithfield Hams". No doubt, much of the corn raised in this county is used in feeding the hogs and other livestock.

We do not know much about the early history of the peanut. It was brought to this country during the days of the slave trade, and was raised successfully along the James River. It was not used as a money crop until 1870. Before this, peanuts were raised in gardens and considered as a treat for children when parched. Peanuts became a staple crop because the soil was well suited for their growth. They have been an important crop ever since. Peanut raising contests have also been held in the county. The winner of the most recent contest produced 2,883 lbs. per acre, with a runner-up of 2,000 lbs. per acre. Isle of Wight is one of the largest peanut producing counties in the United States.

Cotton is of some importance as a money crop. In earlier days it was one of the more important crops. The amount of land planted in cotton decreased due to the fact that it was more profitable to raise other crops.

In recent years, the farmers have begun to raise cattle for market. In earlier years, many farmers had no cows or only one or two to furnish milk for the family. Today a large number of farmers have small herds of beef cattle.

In the past several years, Isle of Wight County, under the direction of the county agent, has shown a marked progress along most lines. The agent introduced many programs to help promote interest in activities built around the farm. Seven years ago, for instance, the 4H Baby Beef program was started. This was the second such show in eastern Virginia. Beef raising has advanced from practically nothing to about 1,000 head. The object of the Baby Beef program is to encourage and promote beef production, and teach boys and girls and their parents the importance of feeding and management of beef cattle in this area.

The county agent advises the activities of such groups as the Smithfield Dairymen's Association, helping them to solve their problems. The watermelon and sweet potato growers have organized for a similar purpose to solve production problems. Isle of Wight County farmers are beginning to grow these products as money crops.

Isle of Wight County has always rated high in agriculture. The farmers of this county boast that they can raise anything.

INDUSTRIES OF SMITHFIELD AND VICINITY

As early as 1775, Smithfield was shipping hams to Bermuda and the West Indies. This was nearly two hundred years ago when Boston and New York City were only villages and the city of Washington not yet thought of.

Mallory Todd, an Englishman living in Bermuda, was attracted to Smithfield by the exports of meat, brandy, vinegar and tobacco. He began the curing of bacon and ham and shipping the same to Bermuda and the West Indies.

The E. M. Todd Company was the first meat packing firm in Smithfield, followed by the Gwaltney and Delk Company. This firm was organized in 1868 by Mr. P. D. Gwaltney, Sr. and Mr. O. G. Delk, and is the oldest plant in operation in Smithfield. It is known today as the P. D. Gwaltney, Jr. Company. The business of this firm is carried on by the founder's three grandsons - Mr. Howard Gwaltney as president, Mr. Julius Gwaltney as vice-president and Mr. Pembroke Decatur Gwaltney, III, as secretary and treasurer.

The 1,500,000 lbs. of cured Smithfield hams comprise ten per cent of Gwaltney's annual pork packing tonnage. It takes the combined efforts of 300 people in Smithfield and a large sales organization to keep Gwaltney's abroad the job of producing, distributing and marketing its products. The firm also sells bacon, fancy sausage, lard, frankfurters and numerous by-products.

Soon after the Gwaltney firm was organized, B. P. Chapman began the same work in connection with his general merchandise business. V. W. Joyner followed him and from that time on,

others, in a small way, have engaged in the business. The V. W. Joyner Company is now a subsidiary of Swift and Company.

During the depression, price problems forced some of the old firms to drop out of business or to sell out. To avoid a similar disaster, J. C. Sprigg, the enterprising president of the Smithfield Ham and Products Company, has developed a sideline of specialties like deviled ham and barbecued pork which constitute a profitable backlog.

The Smithfield Packing Company is the youngest and also the largest plant in operation today. It was organized in 1936. Mr. Joseph William Luter, Sr. served as president of the company. Mr. Joseph William Luter, Jr. was vice-president and Mr. John Martin was secretary and treasurer.

The firm has 600 employees who help produce, distribute and market its products. Although their most important work is the curing of hams, the numerous by-products comprise 75 per cent of their business. Some by-products are bacon, picnic hams, sausage, lard and frankfurters.

There are now four large plants in the ham and meat industry, with an annual output of 400,000 hams alone, valued at \$5,000,000. The by-products which are produced at these plants increase the sales to well over \$25,000,000 annually. In 1940 there were about 45 people employed in the ham business on an all-year basis. In 1952 the industry employed over 700 people, and at present, there are over 1,000 people employed on the same basis.

These industries are housed in modern buildings with complete up-to-date equipment. They make use of plant refrigeration and ship their products in refrigerator trucks.

The ham business is by far the largest industry in Isle of Wight County, and to it Smithfield owes its increased prosperity as a town.

CAMP MANUFACTURING COMPANY

INTRODUCTION

Sixty years ago in the center of a Loblolly pine timber area, an institution was born. It was founded by three Camp Brothers, Paul D. Camp, James L. Camp and Robert J. Camp. These farsighted, energetic men worked together and prospered. The Camp Manufacturing Company was Incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia on November 2, 1887. The original charter of the company permitted the manufacture of lumber in all of its branches.

FORESTS

At an early date the Camp Brothers realized the need of purchasing vast amounts of timber land and acquired large holdings in the coastal regions of Virginia and North Carolina. Reforestation and intelligent forest management has resulted in large yields of timber. Most of the original growth of timber has long since been cut, but the Company has been running for a good many years on heavy stands of second growth timber. As further proof of Camps' conservation policies, some timber land has been cut over three times. At present, all holdings are growing either pulpwood or saw mill timber. Camp Manufacturing Company is careful in the care of their timberland and in the proper harvest of the mature stands. Growing timber is thinned at various periods in order to promote rapid development. Usually seed trees are left so seeds can be scattered naturally. Camps' foresters have aided local farmers in planting pine seedlings. In a few years, cash will be returned from a crop requiring no care.

From timber to lumber, Camps' industry has grown. Modern methods and machinery have aided Camps' loggers in getting the timber to loading zones. Here they are loaded on heavy duty trailers and carried to the mill. Camps' lumber mill has a present annual capacity of 50,000,000 board feet of pine juniper and hardwoods.

SAW MILL

Camps' Mill is outstanding in the modern equipment for handling the saw logs. These logs are delivered by rail or truck and lifted to the log deck by cranes. They next enter the new log barker. This new device is the first to be used in the United States. Removing the bark from the logs by this advanced method separates the bark for fuel and helps prevent waste. The saving in this new method provides additional pulpwood equal to the annual growth of about 50,000 acres of pine timber land.

Conveyors chains carry the clean logs from the barker to the log carriage, where band saws cut lumber into the desired size. As each board is cut from the log, it is conveyed to the resaw on live rollers and on to the edger and trimmer. The trimmer saws cut the boards into standard lengths. They are sorted and graded. The pine is sent on to the steam heated dry kilns. The hardwoods and cypress are stick piled and carried to the yards to be air dried. The dry kilns are large enough to hold a days output of the saw mill and to insure properly dried, well-seasoned lumber for the major markets of the East.

PLANING MILL

The planing mill takes the upper grades of lumber and dresses it into finished flooring, case and base moulding. Camps' planing mill is equipped with the latest improved dressing and milling equipment to handle the finishing of practically all lumber building materials. Licensed inspectors grade each board and mark its grade at one end. Each operation in this modern mill uses the very latest in mechanical equipment, gasoline yard engines, straddle carriers, lift trucks, steam heated dry kilns, grading chairs, edgers and band saws.

COMBINING OF LUMBER MILL AND KRAFT PAPER

One of the most interesting facts is the combining of the lumber mill and the Kraft paper operation. It eliminates all waste. There is a conveyor 1,000 feet in length that goes from the lumber mill to the paper division. It carries sawmill waste to be used for fuel in the central power plant. Another large conveyor carries chips to a storage bin where they are used as part of the pulpwood supply.

KRAFT PAPER

In the last 35 years Kraft Pulp and Paper has attained a place among the leading industries in the United States. There is a large supply of the Southern pine for pulpwood in this area. The South is now the country's greatest Kraft pulp and paper producing area. The Kraft Pulp and Paper Mill of Camp Manufacturing Company was organized as a separate paper mill called Chesapeake-Camp Corporation in 1938. Camp Manufacturing Company supplied a large portion of the pulpwood from timber "tops" and logs not suited for the manufacture of lumber. Camp owned the majority of the stock. In 1944 this company was merged with Camp

Manufacturing Company.

The Paper Division makes the highest grades of Kraft paper. With its expert men and the very latest machinery, Camps soon gained the reputation for quality production of Kraft paper. If we should visit the Paper Division our first stop would be the wood yard. Here we find large supplies of logs ready for the barking drum. The bark is knocked from the logs and water runs at high pressure sprays over the logs to wash away the dirt. From the barking drums, a conveyor carries the pulpwood to the chipper. The logs are reduced to chips. These are stored in large bins, and then to the digesters, in which they are cooked for several hours in an alkaline solution under pressure, at a high temperature. After the cooking, cellulose fibers are left. Turpentine is also gotten from the chip during the cooking process, and sent through a special vent, condensed and then pumped to the chemical division. After the cooking, the clean pulp goes on screens, where all the knots and uncooked wood are separated from the pure fibers. This pulp stock is then put in storage chests. From these chests, the stock is pumped in Jordans. These Jordans are made with steel knives for preparing paper of the desired physical qualities. This process makes the pulp more pliable and uniform, just before the formation of the Kraft sheet on the paper machine.

The pulp is pumped into frames on screens, where most of the water is taken out. The paper goes over the rollers at varied speeds from 200 to 1,300 feet per minute.

When the web paper leaves the wire, it is transferred to a

woolen blanket, where the water is soaked up and removed by vacuum. The top roll is made of rubber, and the bottom roll is a suction press roll which draws the water from the sheet.

The paper is then carried through the dryer section. The paper goes in the dryer system with 70 per cent moisture, and comes out with 6 or 7 per cent. For the final finish, the paper is run over chilled, cast-iron rolls which operate together or independently for varying finishes. Finished paper comes from the machine at the rate of 1,200 feet per minute. The jumbo rolls are about 200 inches wide. These large rolls are cut up into different widths and rewound for commercial use.

THE CHEMICAL DIVISION

The Chemical Division saves material formerly wasted. The sticky fluid called binding material is cooked in an alkaline solution under high pressure and heat. This is skimmed and refined by the Chemical Division and made into Tall Oil. Turpentine and Tall Oil are the main products of this division. The storage tanks are checked often by the chemists to insure "Quality Standards," for which Camp is noted.

In all divisions of Camp Manufacturing Company from the forest to finished paper products and products of the Chemical Division there is very little waste in material. The company is outstanding for its modern machinery and good working conditions and is noted for fine quality products.

END-PRODUCTS OF THE
CAMP MANUFACTURING COMPANY

LUMBER DIVISION

Kiln Dried Southern Pine
flooring, finish, moulding
partition
Tidewater Red Cypress
Deep Swamp Hardwoods
End matched oak flooring

CHEMICAL DIVISION

Crude Tall Oil
Refined Tall oil
Soap
Paint
Turpentine
Linoleum
Greases
Polishes
Rubber
Asphalt Emulsions
Synthetic Resins
Animal Dips

PAPER PRODUCTS

Kraft paper
Drope Paper
Saturated paper
Waterproof paper
Gummed tape
Flat Weaving tape
Kraft Envelopes
Multi-wall bags
Paper cord
Seaming cord
Book covers
Garbage Disposal bags
Grocery bags
Counter rolls
Mailing wrappers
Veneer Tape
Box stays
Tire wraps
Laundry wraps
File Folders

Hand towels
Waxed bags
Waxed paper
Window shades
Locker paper bags
Wet strength paper bags
Can bags
Can liners
Paper cones

PLASTICS (DECORATIVE AND INDUSTRIAL)

Ash Trays
Table Tops
Furniture
Refrigerator panels
Radio Cabinets
Gears
Tubing
Pipe cones
Gaskets
Floor coverings

MARKET AREA OF CAMP MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Boston
New York
Philadelphia
Baltimore
Pittsburgh
Atlanta
Cleveland
Detroit
Cincinnati
Chicago
Memphis